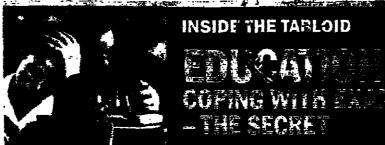
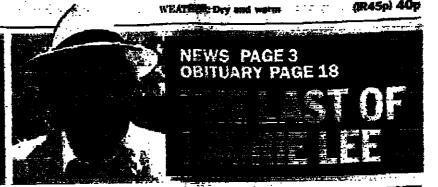


THURSDAY 15 MAY 1997

IN THE TABLOID





ne words for now,

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Tony Blair told the new Parliament yesterday that the Queen's Speech showed the Government "doing the job" of governing for the whole nation. But he immediately faces a se-

level of the national minimum wage, and sorting out the millennium celebration mess.

The Prime Minister told a packed Commons, with standing room only for late-comers: "We will not put right the damage of 18 years in 18 ries of tough decisions such as how days or even 18 months. But in 12

to fund higher education, setting the days we have already shown how we can make a difference."

With ministers already dealing with problems inherited from the Conservatives, Mr Blair said he was proud of the Queen's Speech. legislative programme.

"It builds on the hope and optimism that our election has set cours-

It shows that change can come. "It shows this is a government firmly rooted in the centre-ground,

in touch with the people, governing with the people, for the people. The people's priorities. The people's

The Queen's Speech, which out-

ing through the veins of our nation. lined the legislative programme to for political parties, along with enrun through to the autumn of next year, included 26 Bills and three The key theme was spelled out by White Papers. But a close examination of the day's texts showed that three additional Bills were possible: banning tobacco advertising; breaking up the NHS internal market; and ing an end to foreign donations

the Queen, when she said: "My government intends to govern for the

benefit of the whole nation." With the Conservatives sitting on the opposition benches for the first time since 1979, Mr Blair picked up

the banner of the Tory moderates. telling MPs: "We speak as the One Nation party in British politics today." To anyone who doubts that, they need only look around this House today. They will see Lahour MPs from every part of our country. We speak for the whole nation. We will serve



currently capped at a level al-

lowing around one in three

young people to attend univer-

sity - and reform the funding sys-

tem to make growth possible.

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER 🗓

"THRILLING, DAZZLING, AMAZING

... WHATEVER SUPERLATIVE YOU CHOOSE TO

GARY WHITTA - TOTAL FILM -

MUHAMMAD ALI AT HIS MOST DEFIANT CLAUDE ABRAMS - BOXING NEWS

Tessa Blackstone profile.

Tough choices are looming on student fees

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

The Labour government is prepared to introduce tuition fees for university students, the minister in charge of higher education has told The Independent.

In her first interview since taking office as Minister for Lifelong Learning, Baroness Blackstone indicated that the Government would not rule out the option, which would hammer the final nail in the coffin of free higher education in Britain. If adopted, the move would

result in an outcry, particularly among middle-class parents. The last time the introduction

Sir Keith Joseph a decade ago, the scale of parental opposition forced Margaret Thatcher to reverse the policy after letters warning of means-tested grants

had gone out to parents. While insisting ministers were not persuaded of the case for charging for teaching, Baroness Blackstone - Master of Birkbeck College, London, until taking office after the election - said the Government might find it "necessary to consider an element [of fees] for tuition", depending on the funding position for higher education. However, she reiterated her firm opposition to top-up fees - extra costs levied

paid up-front by students. Her a committee led by Sir Ron placed warnings in their education of our students is to that he was "prepared to listen" statement provides the first in
Dearing. Sir Ron, who met prospectuses that they may levy be properly resourced into the to suggestions of loans for tudication of how the new government plans to approach the highly controversial question of reforming university funding, and represents a change to

existing Labour policy. In the past, the party has opposed any threat to free higher education for full-time first-degree undergraduates. though it is committed to extending their contribution to

living costs through loans. The issue remained largely undebated during the election campaign by tacit all-party agreement as all sides awaited the outcome of a fundamental

David Blunkett. Secretary of State for Education and Employment, last night to report on the review's progress, is certain to take ministers' willingness to countenance fees into account in drawing up his final report,

due in July. Vice-chancellors and principals have already called for an element of student contributions towards teaching costs. At present, courses for Britain's 1 million undergraduates cost between £750 a year for classroom-based courses and £2,800 annually for the clinical elements of medical degrees. Six

top-up fees for courses starting 21st century."

in September 1998. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) last night welcomed news that the Government was considering radical solutions to the challenges facing the higher education sector. The committee's chief executive, Diana Warwick, said: "There is a great opportunity now for the government to take bold action. CVCP believes the realistic solution is a new and fair loans system covering maintenance and a contribution to tuition. In-

Many students, including

those studying part-time or on postgraduate courses, missed out under the current system because they received no public support for either maintenance costs or tuition fees, she added. However, the National Union of Students reiterated its opposition to tuition fees, stating its view that, until the Dearing

committee's report, there remained "everything to play for". An early hint that Labour might drop its opposition to fees came in February this year,

DESCRIBE THIS FILM WILL DO IT AN INJUSTICE" when Mr Blunkett said in an including the contribution to tuof tuition fees was attempted, by by individual universities and review of higher education by universities have this year ition fees is essential if the terview with the Financial Times AN OUTSTANDING PORTRAYAL OF And on setting the minimum wage

On celebrating the new millennium

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

chration could be moved from London to Birmingham folowing an urgent Government .eview of the troubled project. Sources close to the scheme say that the capital's Greenwich site could lose the main devel-

Britain's main millennium cel-

opment "because the whole scheme is up in the air... Birmingham could rush in. It could he a fall-back position". The Greenwich project has been in trouble partly because of pre-election doubts about

Labour's commitment to it. The site would be dominated by a dome created by Lord Rogers. the prominent architect and a Heritage Department ministers must make a quick decision in deciding whether to continue with the original project or

fundamental questions about the financing, business plan, the size of the proposed dome and the type of structures that will be built in it.

The position of the exhibition designers, Imagination, is also being reconsidered. The company has been increasingly dis-enchanted at the lack of progress in the project by Milmium Central, the organisers, to which it has presented a se-ries of designs for the interior of the dome which forms the

centrepiece of the exhibition. Imagination has stopped work on the scheme. A spokeswoman said: "We're standing back from the project. We're separated but not divorced. We are waiting for Millennium Central to make a decision."

However, no decision on designs will be forthcoming until after the review. A spokesman for Millennium Central said there had been no row: "Imagorder a dramatic change of direction. The review is likely to ination had a three mouth contake four weeks and will raise tract to put forward designs and

that's what they have done. We do not need to sign any contracts with them now and will

not do so until it is necessary." The review will also question whether more money should be earmarked for regional events to celebrate the millennium, rather than concentrating on London. The overall cost of the exhibition is estimated at £650m of which £200m will be a grant from lottery funds and a further £200m has been earmarked as contingency, with around £57m going to the regions.

The project needs £195m from the private sector but Millennium Central says no money has yet been firmly committed, although BT and BA have both said they will support

Millennium Central's business plan for the exhibition will be presented to the Millennium Commission, chaired by the Secretary of State for National Heritage, Chris Smith. when it meets on Monday.

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

A senior businessmen offered the chairmanship of the Low Pay Commission has told Labour politicians privately that he wants a minimum wage of little more than £3.

Peter Jarvis, retiring chief executive of brewing group Whit-bread, favours a figure which would include bonuses and benefits-in-kind and would amount to around £3.20. Mr Jarvis also wants to see a

minimum wage fixed to reflect regional trends, something Labour has ruled out. The news will enrage many of the largest unions, which have called for a rate matching half

male median earnings, calculated at £4.42. While many welcomed the establishment of the commission, announced in the Queen's Speech, they were unaware of the

figure Mr Jarvis had in mind.

Only a recent convert to the

idea of a statutory pay limit, Mr Jarvis, is also keen to promote however, emerged in a confithe idea of regional variation -in direct contradiction to the views of Ian McCartney, the sponsoring minister in the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Jarvis was contacted by the Labour Party in the last week of the election campaign and asked if he would chair the commission. The 55-year-old Bolton mill workers' son and Cambridge graduate, however, had received no further approach since the election, ac-

cording to an aide. While intrigued by the pos-sibility of leading the commission, he is keen to see the terms of reference before committing himself. He wants sufficient leeway so that the

minimum could apply flexibly. Announcing Whithread's profits last November however, Mr Jarvis said that the principle of a "floor" for wages was a good one and that it would not disturb responsible companies. would give a figure of £3.20.

Mr Jarvis's private views, dential memorandum sent by Whitbread to the Labour Party in September 1995. The document opposed the establishment of a minimum based on half male median earnings - then £4.15 - on the grounds that it would cost the leisure industry £167m and lead to substantial job losses. It would cost Whitbread £27m.

The memo also pointed out that basic hourly rates were "anachronistic" because employees were paid through a mixture of profit-related pay, incentive bonuses, free share ownership, staff discounts and company pension schemes.

A spokesman for Whitbread yesterday refused to say what its lowest basic pay was because it was a "starter rate". The paper sent to the Labour Party said that a minimum of £3 would have a "negligible impact" on Whitbread. Up-rated, that

ition. In its evidence to the

Dearing inquiry, the party made

clear that in government it

would want to resume the ex-

pansion of higher education

WE WERE THE TRUE STORY OF THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE



THE BROADSHEET Business & City22-24

Leading article21 THE TABLOTO

QUICKLY Abuse convictions

Three staff of a home for the mentally disabled will be sentenced after being convicted yesterday of

Dail dissolution to mark start of Irish poll campaign

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, will today announce the dissolution of the Duli and the start of the general election

Leaders of the timee coalition government parties, Fine Gael, Labour and Democratic Left will meet today to start their campaign with a photocall to announce 21 election commitments.

The main opposition. Fianna Fail, will announce its manifesto tomorrow morning. Its campaign will centre on tax cuts of 5 per cent over five years in the higher 48 per cent rate, with some reduction in the lower 2n per cent rate.

Doctor loses C4 libel case

Channel 4 hes won is £2m line) battle with a Harley Street doctor who the channel channel rigged tests and misdiagnosed a terminally-ill Aids patient. Dr Peter Nixon halted his case against the channel's 1944 programme, Proving On Hope, after five weeks at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

D: Neart has gained a high profile for his theory that a list of diseases including Aids. Gulf War syndrome, ME and premenstrual tension are autibutable to hyperventilation. However Change 14 found that Dr Nixon rigged his patients' breathing tests by aching them to "breathe as if they were angry". He told for Fugites, an Aids patient who died last summer, that

his larigue was caused by over-breathing. Dr Nixon, who had a tarnover of their all 90,000 a year, recommends a course of Valium or diazepum in 2 "two weeks of sleeping" as a cure for

Home-made bullet found in jail

A nonre-made beilet was found in a cell block at a privately-run prison, it was revealed yesterday. It was discovered during a country search of a prison cell block at Blakenhurst Prison in Redditch, Warcestershire, last Friday, A spokesman for the jail, which is ran by United Kingdom Detention Service, said the bullet was made with an empty curtridge.

He added that no gun was found and the bullet may have been made as a "practical joke".

The discovery is the latest embarrassing blow for the jail where hundreds of earliecks had to be changed earlier this year at a cost of tens of thousends of pounds after suspicions that a prisoner had obtained a copy of a key.

Rachel killer's boyfriend arrested



lan Wells, the boyfriend of Maria Hnatiuk, the woman jailed for life last year for the murder of tecnage student Rachel Lean, was arrested yesterday. He was last night being questioned in connection with "events leading up to and surrounding" the murder in September 1995. Norfolk police said Mr Wells voluntarily attended North Walsham police station this afternoon with his solicitor and he remained in custody there. Eighteen-yearold Ms Lean (pictured) was

found stubbed to death in the worlds to the FCAF have near her Norfolk home. In November last year. Hasting, New as comjeted of her murder and jailed for life.

20-stone woman refused operation

An organism on a 20-stone woman was cancelled - because she was a so let, a passibal confirmed last night.

Kings Mt Doopinal at Sutton in Ashlield. Noting hamshire, says Bet Ms Naholson, 42, from nearby Mansfield, has complained to the or to take what she was insulted by the remarks of an less acted for Mortin Clark. Dr Clark is currently on holiday and <u> gra</u>ndishta in contraint.

received and was in whenty dealt with "in a confidential and appropriate way. Als Nicholson has vowed not to return to the and for a hystorectumy operation - and has consulted a solicitor

Coach driver 'hit car at 60mph'

An in Appenenced couch driver approached a roundabout at more than nomph before hitting a car and overturning, causing the deaths of 10 of his passengers, a court was told yesterday. Photon Crisp. 26, later blanted the crash on sudden total brake tariare that tests and a reconstruction of the accident showed his

\$3-sector reliefe was being driven too fast, it was alleged. Mr Wy: Williams QC, prosecuting, said newly-qualified Mr Crop, employed by Lewis Brothers, of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan. was a rabel drive; who had volunteered to take the coach party on a trip from a council day centre at Aberdare to Stratford-upon-Aven in July 1995. The case continues.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Rich reward: Orlando Figes whose award yesterday was his second success in as many months

Historian defies plagiarism claims to win top prize

he young Cambridge historian Orlando Figes triumphed over allegations of plagiarism last night to win a second major book award in two months for his epic account of the Russian Revolution. Figes was awarded the £25,000 NCR award (the wealthiest British prize for a non-fiction book) for A People's Tragedy, published by Jonathan Cape. It traces the origins of the revolution and its disastrous impact on Russian life up to the death of Lenin in 1924.

Figes has already won the WH Smith award for a gripping narrative that Clive Anderson, chairman of the NCR judging panel, described as a "brilliantly written work". The other shortlisted titles Antonia Fraser's History of the Gunpowder Plot, Frank McLynn's Biography of Carl Gustay Jung and the bookies' favourite, Europe: A History by Norman Davies.

Earlier this year, Figes sued a rival historian, Richard Pipes of Harvard University, after Pipes claimed to have found material taken from his own books in A People's Tragedy. But the examples quoted by the Sunday Times in an article which published Pipes' accusation amounted to little more than some standard interpretations of Russian history and some

Agony aunt

takes her leave

from Liberty

The doyenne of media agony

pay cut to leave Mohamed

Talk Radio.

aumts Anna Raebum has taken a

al-Fayed's London radio station

Liberty and rejoin her old station

Liberty and she was forced to fill

time by playing records and mak-

casters at the station last Decem-

ber after it was relaunched out of

have been tempted by a £180,000 pay offer. Her salary at Talk Radio is likely to be closer to £100,000.

Since its relaunch Liberty has

failed to make any impact on the

ratings - in the Rajar ratings pub-

lished this month Liberty was

radio market.

reaching just 93,000 listeners a

week or 1 per cent of the London

"I was inundated with letters

happy to be coming back," said

Ms Raeburn yesterday. "My show

the fantastic audience. I can't wait

Liberty denied reports in Febru-

ary that Raeburn wanted to return

was a huge success because of

to get back to them."

when I left Talk Radio so I am very

the ashes of failed women's sta-

tion Viva! She was reported to

Raeburn (right) joined Liberty's expensive line-up of star broad-

She has moved because no one used to call her phone-in show at

trivial similarities in phrasing. Yesterday, Figes' publishers Jonathan Cape announced that the legal action has been settled.

The controversy shows that the Russian Revolution and its aftermath can still arouse passionate debate among scholars. Pipes belongs to the cold war of historians whose view of the Soviet past was shaped by the unmasking of Stalin's tyranny in the years after 1956. Figes, although hostile to the Bolshevik one-party state. comes from a younger and less partisan generation. His book pays more attention to the hopes and sufferings of ordinary Russians than to ritual attacks on the crimes of Lenin and Stalin.

Meanwhile, the winner of the book world's richest ever prize was also announced yesterday. In Dublin, the judges of the £100,000 INPAC prize chose A Heart So White by Spanish novelist Javier Marias from a short-list of eight. The prize is open to works of fiction from any country and was first awarded last year.

Born in 1952, Javier Marias is an author and academic whose experiences teaching Spanish at Oxford University inspired his previous novel All Souls.

Baddest boy in pop' jailed for stun-gun threat

Mark Morrison, 24, the soul singer who earlier this year styled himself the "baddest boy in pop", was jailed yesterday for three months for threatening a police officer with an electric stun gun.

He had admitted possessing the weapon, which gives off a 23,000volt charge and can cause loss of balance and mental confusion, at his trial at Marylebone Magistrates Court last month. He denied, but was found guilty of threatening the policeman when the officer tried to arrest him outside a 24-hour convenience store in Notting Hill, west London, in October last year.

Morrison, who had a No 1 hit with "Return of the Mack", had argued that he did not know the stun gun was illegal. He said he had bought it in America to protect himself against hassle from members of the public.

Morrison's solicitor told the court: "The bad boy image of pop might go down well in America but as far as Britain and Europe are concerned, it is not the image he

wants to cultivate. Jailing Morrison, the stipendiary magistrate told him that his claims of good character and commitment to charity work had been ruined by "a horrendous record of public order offences".

briefing

High dioxin levels found in breast-fed babies

Young babies who are breast-fed may have as much as 17 times the tolerable level of gender-altering chemicals in their body, a new review has found.

A survey by the independent Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products in the Environment [COT] found that the average levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins for two month-old breast-fed babies is estimated to be 170 picogrammes/kg body weight when recommended tolerable intake is 10pg/kg bw. However, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, urged mothers not to be deterred. "Infants who are being breast-fed may exceed the tolerable level set by COT for the short periods of breast-feeding, but would have a negligible impact over a lifetime. The proven advantages of breast-feeding far outweigh any small theoretical risk ... On the basis of this information there is no reason to stop breast-feeding in indeed if you stop breast-feeding it is reason to stop breastfeeding; indeed if you stop breast-feeding it is very difficult to start again."

Glenda Cooper

RELIGION

Prince loses church confidence

The Prince of Wales has lost the confidence of churchgoers,

according to a new survey.

More than seven out of 10 (76 per cent) readers of *The Church of England Newspaper* said the Prince should not become Supreme Governor of the Anglican Church. The independent weekly paper, with a 25,000 circulation, blames the Prince's admission of adultery and subsequent divorce, and his comments about wishing to become "Defender of Faith" rather than "Defender of The Faith", for his apparent unpopularity.

"Prince Charles's efforts to be seen to play a greater role in the Church of England could be too little, too late," the newspaper says. "While there are many unanswered questions behind that response, there seems little doubt that Prince Charles will be hard put to allay the scepticism and downright opposition to his accession as head of the Church of England.

INDUSTRY

Hammering for British builders

British builders are among the least efficient in the western world, according to a researcher who spent two years on building sites

logging their performance.

The infamous tea-break is partly to blame, along with late starts, early finishes and incompetent management. Nearly a fifth of working time was wasted through workers swinging the lead, but a further 12 per cent of time was unproductive because of managerial cock-ups. Workers in Sweden, Germany and the US were far more efficient, wasting less than than 3 per cent of their working week through late arrivals and early finishing. Amazingly most British building projects are completed on time, to budget, but the Building Services Research and Information Association believes that inefficiency was allowed for in estimates. Barrie Clement



EDUCATION

Schools are not being given enough money to run proper technology courses, according to a report published today.

The average amount spent on each pupil according to the latest figures was £5.86 compared with the £9.30 recommended by the Design and Technology Association. There are big differences between schools with funding ranging from 40p to £21.10 per pupil. Two-thirds of schools do not have the right equipment to teach

The report, published by the Engineering Council, says that the previous government's policy of funding a few technology colleges and city technology colleges has failed to fulfilst aim of delivering good technology for all. Yet £10m a year would give schools enough money to run technology courses properly. There should also be a rolling programme of capital investment, the report says.

Technology in Secondary Schools; by Alan Smithers and Pamela Robinson, published by the Engineering Council.

Judith Jud

LEISURE

Skiers back on piste in holiday boom

The number of people taking skiing holidays, which went downhill in the mid-1990s, climbed by more than 9 per cent last winter. A total of 830,000 Britons took to foreign slopes in 1996-97, giving the industry its first major surge for five years, according to figures from ski holiday company Crystal. Tour operators accounted for 475,000 of the holidays – 10 per cent more than in the 1995-96 season – with 205,000 making independent arrangements and 150,000 who went on school trips. France (24.5 per cent of the market) was the top destination, followed by Austria (20.1 per cent) and Italy (19.8 per cent). North America broke through the 10 per cent share figure for the first time.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Supplies of aluminium may run out in 200 years. Well, we can always grow some more.

to Talk Radio because she was

getting only two or three calls per

But Ms Raeburn, who is also a

star of daytime TV and appears on

advice slots on GMTV and This

Morning, is known to have been

unhappy at having to "spin discs

like an ordinary DJ" according to a

Ms Raebum made her name on

Capital Radio in the Seventies and

phone-in show that was the first of

She has lived as turbulent a life

trademark is straight, no nonsense

as many of her callers, and her

advice no matter how weird the

Eighties with her own agony

its kind in the UK.

problem.

show at Liberty compared with

8,000 to 9,000 on her old show.

Sadly, we can't. Reserves of bankite, the raw material for aluminium, are limited. Hus fortunately there's one building material that can be replenished indefinitely. **粒** Think Wood

http://www.ttf.co.uk

Four weddings and a sequel

Hugh Grant to play himself again in a film called Notting

David Lister

Hugh Grant is poised to star in a fol-low-up to Four Weddings and a Funer-al, the most successful British film ever. The screenplay for the film has been written by the Four Weddings creator. Richard Curtis, who is also the writer behind TV comedies Blackadder and Mr Bean, and one of the key figures behind the charity Comic Relief.

His script, which is nearly ready for shooting, is called Notting Hill after the trendy west London area where Curtis and his girlfriend. TV presenter Emma Freud, live in a converted chapel.

Though many people assumed that the Hugh Grant character in Four Weddings and a Funcral was a reflection of Grant himself, friends of Richard Curtis realised immediately that many

ionged to the writer.
It is understood that the new script revolves around a shy young bookseller who meets and falls in love with the most famous actress in the world, and surprises his circle of friends by bringing her along to parties and social gath-

erings.

Contracts have not yet been signed with Grant, but the deal is understood to be imminent. A Polygram executive Senior sources at Polygram Films, said: "The new movie will not have the which owns Working Title, the British same character that ended up with production company with made Four Andie McDowellat the end of the last Weddings and will make the sequel film. But if Hugh Grant plays the charconfirmed here yesterday that Grant acter in the new film as we confident— has been asked to play the lead.



Hugh Grant with Charlotte Coleman in a scene from the smash-hit film Four Weddings and a Funeral

ly hope he will, and with the Richard Curtis script, it will be very much the sequel to Four Weddings and a

Grant and his girlfriend Liz Hurley were here in Cannes earlier this week.

The bookseller - while again bearing similar character traits to Curtis - will not be the effete bachelor with the

tangled love life of Four Weddings and a Funeral. And while Polygram and Working Title are desperately keen to sign Grant, they will not be ap-proaching the other stars of Four Reddings - Andie McDowell, Kristin Scott Thomas or John Hannah. One

Four Weddings and a Funeral was made for \$5m, and Grant received a relatively small fee while McDowell negotiated a share of the profits. The film went on to take \$250m at the box office worldwide.

It is hoped to start shooting on the film towards the end of the year with a release date next year. With Grant likely to be in the lead role and Cur-Polygram source, who has read Curtis writing the script, the film will be tis script, described it as "hilarious." tis writing the script, the film will be seen as the Four Weddings sequel and

will command worldwide attention. The approach to Grant has been pt secret by Polygram and Working Title, who would make no official com-

ment. It was not announced at a lav-

ish publicity luncheon Polygram held

in Cannes during the week. Instead they announced a state of new films including Dean, a feature film version of TV's Mr Bean starring Rowan Atkinson, and a new film about Elizabeth I.

Laurie Lee, poet and wanderer, dies at 82



Lee in 1956 while working on Cider with Rosie Photograph: I.Kar/Camera Press

Friends of the author and poet Laurie Lee paid tribute to him yesterday after hearing of his

His close triend David Tarratt, the publican of Lee's local pub, the Woolpack Inn in the Gloucestershire village of Slad, said a "blanket of sadness" had descended over the village and it would "never be the same without him".

"He was such an entertaining man who always had time for visitors who came to see him from all over the world." he said. Lee had been ill since Christ-

mas, having never fully recovered from surgery he underwent last year. He died in his Little Court cottage behind the pub overlooking the village with his wife and daughter by his side.

"It was good that they were with him when he took his last breath," said Mr Tarratt. "He had been very ill and had lost many of his faculties, although his mind was still sharp. His death was not a complete surprise. But it is still a very sad moment. He will be very much missed. He was such an entertaining man, so full of tricks and

Despite his travels in Europe,

Slad Valley was Lee's beloved landscape. He was brought up there by his mother and three older half-sisters and attending Slad Village School. He immortalised it in his first autobiography. Cider With Rosie, and two years ago he joined a successful campaign to save the valley, renamed Lau-ric Lee's Valley, from residential development.

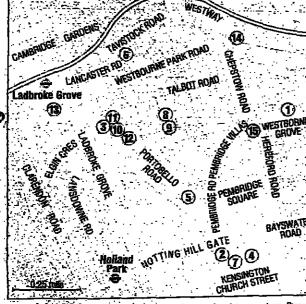
Lee stood out as one of the great writers of this century whose work conjured up a world of earthy warmth and

Cider With Rosic almost immediately became an established classic piece of literature and was soon part of classroom syllabus work.

Lee also represented an era of brilliance and idealism that sprang from the Thirties - fighting in the Spanish Civil War, writing verse plays for radio and a contemporary of literary fig-ures such as Cyril Connolly, Stephen Spender, John Lehmann, George Orwell and Cecil Day-Lewis.

Among those paying tribute to Lee vesterday was Jack Jones, 83, the former union leader who is now a campaigner for pensioners' rights, and was another volunteer in Spain.

The places to be seen



 Planet Digaric: a temple of green food. Sunday morning detax sessions. Sweet green wheatgrass pilea: £1,35 a trimble: Sean Connery is a regular. Jarvis Gocker, Ernily Lloyd. Kytie Monogue and Elizabeth Shue drop in from time to time. 2) The Gate chama. Promotes new film-makers, also shows many short movies. Film-buffs favourite

3) 192 - A must for media types and Bridget Jones.

4) The Good Health Clinic: Homeopathic cures, remedial massages, acupu Julie Christie, Bjork, Kytis Monogus, Nenah Cheny.

fi) The Sugar Ctub - Not a ctub you have to join, unlike half of Notting Hill, but thick book - even Madonna was turned away at the door when she arrived without a reservation. Torn Ford, Paul Smith and Mick Jagger ge there for "fusion satisfies" (blend of tlavours from around the world).

77 Kensington Place - media moguis shout to be heard.

Tom's Groceries and Provisions - Tom's, as in Tom Contan, is the local Convenience store for numberous celebs including Rifat Ozbek, Jason Donovan and Elvis Costello.

9) Public lavatory - (photograph below) Britain's chicest, designed by Piers Sough, complete with local's lavourite frontst, Wild at Heart.

(a) Harper and Tom's - Florist famous for its ornamental vegetables and incremental by John Cleese and Ruby Wax.

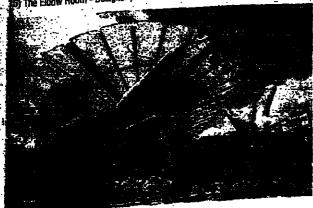
11 Graham and Greens - This contemporary turnibure, furnishing and clot stop dominates Eigin Crescent. Regular local customers include Miranda Bichardson, Richard E Grant and Alan Rickman.

22) Portobello Studios - shared office of Richard Curile, who wrote Four Weddings and a Funeral, Emma Freud. Mariella Frostrop and Sally Brampton.

***Alastar Little - the Cambridge graduate chef opened his second restaurant -tere last year in what was a greasy spoon.

a) The Cow - Sebastian Conran's homage to an Irish bar.

Room - Designer pool-hall on Westbourne Grove.



So what's so special about living in

Clare Garner

The list of famous Notting Hill names goes on and on - just as the price of properties there goes up and up.

Martin Amis put the West

London enclave on the des-res map in 1989, with his his descriptions of Ladbroke Grove's seedy pubs and crombling terraces in his novel, London

Now, in the words of Tania Kindersley, a Guinness heiress whose latest novel, Goodbyc, Johnny Thunders, is set in Nineties Notting Hill: "It's so trendy, I'm surprised they haven't fenced it off and start-

ed charging an entry fee."
Well, they almost have. Aromatherapeutic acupuncture at the Good Health Clinic; Pesticide-free pesto from Planet Organic; fois gras pancake at Kensington Place; £150 membership of the Cobden Club; and a few trinkets from Graham and Greene. Take your choice.

It all racks up.
W11 is a celebrity gheuo. From the Gate (Notting Hill) to the Grove (Ladbroke), the streets are stuffed with household surnames. Damon Albarn. who says Notting Hill has had a big effect on him after reading London Fields, lives there with his girlfriend, Justine Frischmann, singer with the group, Elastica.

Taking up the slack where Sloane Rangers left off, the inhabitants have been variously labelled "Portobello Princesses", "Notting Hillbillies" and "Trustafarians" who meet Rastafarians, most apparantly at the Carnival.

Landmarks such as the Gate cinema, by Notting Hill Gate tube, and Portobello Market, are long-standing. But the splurge in snazzy residents has seen a corresponding rise in fashionable joints to meet their every need.

The Cobden Club, a kind of Groucho's-goes-West, a refit of Working Men's Club, on Ken-sal Road, is a late-night watering hole for local members, such as Jade Jagger, Honor Fraser, Rifat Ozbek, Malcolm McLaren and Emily Lloyd.

If all the fans of Planet Organic, the area's answer to ecofriendly food, swept the supermarket aisles at the same time. it would be quite a party. Sean Comery, Jarvis Cocker, Emily Lloyd, Kylie Minogue. Jason Donovan, Ruby Wax, Eliza-beth Shue and Terence Stamp are among those who may have been tempted to try the sweet green wheatgrass juice, at £1.35 a thimble, as a Sunday morning

Notting Hill is also a haven for people who work - rather than star - in the media. Jonathan Dimbleby, Michael Jackson, Dominic Lawson Clive Hollick, Jeremy Paxman and Alan Yentob all live there: Richard Curtis, who wrote

Four Weddings and a Funeral. Emma Freud, Mariella Frostrup and Sally Brampton share an office on the Portobello Road, and Richard Branson's home and offices are on Holland Park Avenue.

It is not the first time that Notting Hill has provided the backdrop to a film. Recently, Jack and Sarah featured shots of Ladbroke Grove, but earlier precedents include: Nicholas Roeg's film, Performance (1970) starring Mick Jagger and Ani-ta Pallenberg, A Hard Day's Night (1964) with the Beatles; Absolute Beginners (1986), the adaptation of Colin Maclinnes's novel, starring Patsy Kensit and David Bowie; and Otley (1968), with Tom Courtenay.

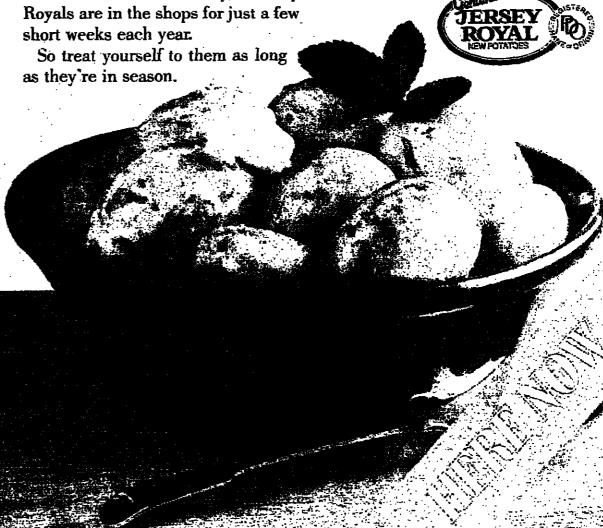
The peace camp in Hanif Kureishi's Sammy and Rosie Get Laid (1987) is situated under the West Way and the studio in Blow-Up (1966), starring Vanessa Redgrave and David Hemmings, can be found on Princedale Road, off Holland

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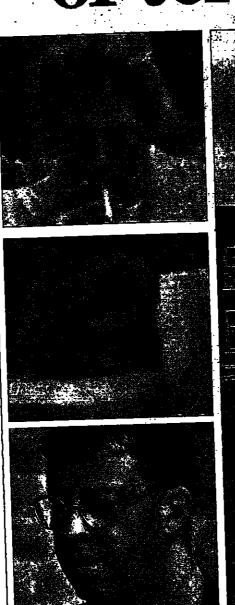
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Three convicted after reign of terror at mental home





Guilty: Lorraine Field (top), Desmond Tully and Angela Rowe, and Stoke Place Mansion House, Buckinghamshire, scene of a 'catalogue of abuse, deprivation and torment' Place, police were called in to

Louise Jury

Three staff of a home for the mentally disabled will be sentenced next month after they were convicted of abusing residents in their care. Desmond Tully. 42. of Exeter, Devon. a fourth will remain on file. vesterday joined former coleagues Angela Rowe, a director of the homes, and Lorraine Field in being found guilty of ill-

treatment. Families who had been attending the case at Kingston Crown Court demanded a public inquiry into what happened at Stoke Place Mansion House and Stoke Green House in

Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. In particular they want to and her late husband and fellow director, Gordon, went unchecked for 11 years. And detectives demanded tougher laws to prevent abuse in private residential homes.

Jon Bound, the retired superintendent who investigated the scandal, said details heard in court were "just the tip of the iceberg. New legislation needs to be introduced ... to cater for the growth of private-care homes with tighter procedures for their inspection and moni-toring, together with guidelines for the employment of trained staff in addition to stringent checks being made on persons requesting registration. Those involved should not be allowed to make vast profits at the expense of other people's misery."

The police investigation into the scandal was launched in 1994 after the Independent revealed a secret Buckinghamshire county council report which found residents were subjected "to a catalogue of abuse, deprivation, humiliation and torment." Gordon Rowe committed suicide last year, the day before he was due to be terly guilty. I should have charged with a string of abuse

offences including three rapes. Angela Rowe, 39, of Windsor, Berkshire, was yesterday found guilty of a fourth charge. A count of indecent assault will lie on file. Field, 42, has

been convicted of three illtreatment counts. A fourth which will remain on file.

Tully yesterday became the third member of staff to be convicted of ill-treatment. He was cleared of two other charges and

Police found evidence of mental, physical or sexual abuse against at least 40 of the 70 resdents, some with mental ages as low as three. Respond, a charity which is counselling some of

them, said they were the most seriously traumatised cases they had seen. Pauline Hennessey, whose

late sister Janet Ward was a resident, said: "At the end of the day, we placed our children in their care because social services place for them to live. What happened?

But Audrey Bainbridge, who chairs its social services com-mittee, said they were proud of number of his female

how they had investigated the home and protected residents' welfare.

Kingston Crown Court heard of a brutal, authoritarian regime. But the true picture, with builying, manipulative Gordon Rowe in the middle of recommended that this was a fit it, was far more alarming. In one incident, he hosed down a resident who had incontinence problems in the garden. He

punched other residents.

He terrified staff and let it be known that he was a Mason with friends in useful places. Social services despair that no one reported problems earlier. But Gary Morten, who worked there, said: "You had to be there to understand the power and control that went on.

There were warning signs for the authorities. While Rowe was preparing to open Stoke

'Abuse' homes: video

copying gear found

his former workplace in Somerset to investigate claims that he had sexually abused a resident. No prosecution ensued and lawyers advised Buckinghamshire that they had no grounds to refuse him a cure home license. A source in Somerset, however, says there was no prosecution only because the victim was mentally disabled. There were clues, too, in the

homes' record books, which described residents with med ical problems left untreated for days and even hints of abuse. Some of the female favourites" sometimes complained of soreness between the legs. Yet the first alarm was raised only in April 1991, when a local authority passed on a se-Gordon Rowe.

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MPs bare identition

Ast election de la l

In October 1993 Thames Valley police investigated other claims but decided theres was not enough evidence to prosecute. The Police Complaints Authority is now inves-

tigating the police conduct.

Eventually, in November 1993. Buckinghamshire launched its own detailed investigation. Almost immediately. Gordon and Angela Rowe withdrew from management of the homes which were then providing an annual income of more than £200,000 and a lifestyle which included two homes in America. Gordon's son, Nigel, was left in charge. There was no evidence of wrongdoing against him.

Many families felt the licences should have been withdrawn but the council's legal advice ruled against. Local authorities with residents at the homes were informed in June 1994 and some families received letters. But for others the first they knew of the abuse was when the Independent broke the story in September that year. They were appalled. The police investigation was reopened. After an initial interview. Gordon Rowe had a mental breakdown and was never again considered fit for questioning.

E INDEPENDE Police reopen abuse homes inquiry The cruelty that buse and torment' at care homes thrives on secrecy

How a blind eye was turned to kicks, punches and torments

One former member of staff broke down and cried in the witness box when he recalled how Jacqui Goddard had been

treated, writes Louise Jury.
Jacqui is a tiny, partiallyblind woman with Down's Syndrome. She was regularly dragged outside and forced to eat her meals on the patio dressed only in scanty indoor

clothes, even in the bitter cold. When her older brother, Bill, found out, he could barely believe it. "You couldn't print what I feel about the Rowes," he says. "When I found out I was heartbroken and I felt bit-

But even social services inspectors were missing the signs. Looking back, there were a few indications that all was not well. Gifts that Mr Goddard bought his sister all disap-

different types of drugs -although one is now deemed sufficient to treat a thyroid

It has emerged that Jacqui's own local authority, which placed her at the home, did not send a social worker to check on her for three years.

Lawyers acting for Jacqui, now 50, hope to take legal action against those Bill Goddard believes let the residents down - including the councils. "I hold them responsible as well as Gordon and Angel

Rowe and the rest," he says. "If it's the last thing I ever do, the borough councils are going to pay. I think she deserves someing, don't you?" Like Mr Goddard, Terry and

Barbara McCarthy thought they autistic son, Shaun. They of being raped by Gordon were doing their best by their

was 21 to prepare him for life when they were no longer able to care for him.

Shaun, now 37, became one of the "working lads," forced to spend day after day in the garden despite his hatred of it. Gordon Rowe kicked and punched him when he refused to go.

Even now, if Shaun is anywhere near Stoke Place, his body goes rigid in terror. Only when he realises he is not to be sent back can he relax and smile. He has been resettled at another home in Devon, where he is far happier.

There is no chance of that happening for another resi-dent, Janet Ward, who died last year aged 28. Her sister, Pauline Hennessey, believes it was of a broken heart after the trauma

peared. Also, she was on nine different types of drugs - him to go into a home when he ties say it was a seizure. Janet was a pretty young

woman who deteriorated completely at Stoke Place, becoming disruptive and violent and even losing the ability to speak. Only after she left the home did her family discover the appalling regime and that Rowe had been abusing her. Her aunt June Raybaud said

in the last few years of her life, Janet sighed a lot and laughed less. Janet spoke often of the impending court case where she would have given evidence. "She was going to tell the judge about the 'naughty people' and then the judge would put them into prison and then all of her friends would be safe." Mrs Raybaud recalls. "Her story always ended the same way the naughty people went to

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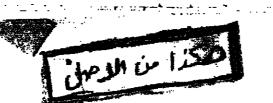
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the queen's speech the queen's speech

Blair aim is a mixture of idealism and realism

Political Correspondent

Tony Blair's government will be radical, modern and "very definitely new Labour," the Prime Minister promised yesterday as he introduced his leg-

islative programme.

But John Major told him: The road to bell is paved with good inten-

Mr Blair's government was full of such intentions, the Conservative Party leader said, and the British people would pay the price in higher public spending bills and higher taxes.

Yesterday's clash was the first Commons exchange since Tony Blair and John Major swapped roles, and at times the only change seemed to be the fact that Mr Blair stood at the Government rather than the Opposition

The Prime Minister continued his old habit of attacking the Conservatives' record, while the new Opposition leader continued to warn of the dangers of a Labour government almost as if he were still in office.

Opening the debate, Mr Blair claimed that his government would demonstrate "long-termism in

"This is the ambitious, practical programme of a new Labour government that has its feet on the ground, sound values in its heart and the necessary mixture of idealism and realism which the modern age demands," he told the House of Commons.

"We speak as the one-nation party in British politics today. We speak for the whole nation and we will serve the whole nation."

Mr Blair said his party's landslide victory had given it a clear mandate "to modernise what is outdated, to make fair what is unjust, and to do both by the best means available, irrespective of doctrine or dogma, without fear or favour."

The Prime Minister said education remained his first priority. "Building the best-educated and best-skilled nation in the Western world will take time, of course, but at least now we are making a start. I want this government to be long-termism in action,"

In Europe, he promised to replace isolationism with leadership, in politics, to clean up public life and in the economy, to replace Conservative boom and bust" with stability.

Mr Blair said be intended to provide strong leadership and to build on the hope and optimism which the election result had set "coursing through the veins of our nation."

"We will not put right the damage of 18 years in 18 days, or 18 months, but we will start as we mean to go on - setting the agenda, not having it set for us," he said.

Conservative scares over what could happen under a Labour government no longer carried any weight, he said.

People know them to be false. They rejected them in the last election. If Tory MPs have learnt no lessons from the last election defeat, they had better prepare themselves for the next

one," he said.

The minimum wage would help to underpin the system with fairness and the redistribution of lottery money would help to put the Government in touch with the people.

The former prime minister said that Labour had inherited a nation in better shape than it had been for many years, with inflation at its lowest for 50 years, tax at its lowest for 60 years and the lowest interest and mortgage rates for a generation.

Employment was rising, unem-ployment was falling and standards of health and education were improving,



"The new government deserves some goodwill and it deserves some hick. I am willing to give it goodwill and for the sake of the country I am prepared to wish it luck. No government has ever come to office with such an inheritance, but it was an inheritance won against daily opposition and obstruction of many of the members now sitting opposite on the govern-ment benches," he said. Labour's plan to abolish the As-

sisted Places scheme would simply open up new social divides, he

"The Government don't believe that children from less well-off families should have the opportunity to afford it can go. Under new Labour, the size of the wallet matters most in education," he said.

Although he was prepared to work with the Government where its poli-cies reflected those of the Conservatives, Mr Major said that he would oppose many of its Bills vigorously. On devolution, Labour had not only

failed to answer the West Lothian question on how Scottish MPs could vote on English affairs at Westminster, while English MPs could not vote on Scottish affairs. It had also failed to answer "the West Devon, West Hampshire and the West Lancashire ques-

tion," he said. Mr Major added: "On devolution the Government have always had the had the worst arguments." The former prime minister also criticised as profoundly mistaken" the decision by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to hand interest rate decisions to the Bank of England.

"What he has done is to hand a very important political power to unelect-ed officials, damage his choices as Chancellor of the Exchequer," Mr

"He has taken a vital choice away from himself, damaged his choices in managing the economy, ensured unemployment will grow and growth will be held back."

Mr Major, in generous mood, praised the Labour left-winger Chris Mullin, MP for Sunderland South, who was selected by his party to second the

speech. Mr Mullin, like, Mr Major, used to live in Brixton.

"He was burgled so regularly that he put a note on his door ... Tve been robbed so many times that if you find anything of value you're welcome to

," Mr Major said. He added: "I know how he feels. So far as policy is concerned I nearly put a similar note on the door of the Cabinet Room when I left it," he said.

The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said his party would play a role of "constructive opposition" in the new Parliament.

'Of course we shall criticise the Government where we believe they are wrong - and especially where their actions fall short of the programme of reform the country needs," he said.

attend good public schools. Only those children whose parents can best slogans, but I believe they have Drop in young jobless leads to a new deal

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

Some targets move too fast, even for a government that makes it clear it has hit the ground running.

The Labour manifesto pledge to help 250,000 young people unem-ployed for more than six months "break out of benefit" has evolved into a Queen's Speech promise of a "New Deal" for 250,000 unemployed young people. There are no longer enough of them who have been out of work for as long as six months.

Gordon Brown will have to hurry with his Budget - whose exact date next month still has not been announced - if the promised welfare-to-work package is going to keep up with the unemployment figures. Fresh statistics for April showed the total number claiming unemployment benefit fell by 59,400 to 1.65 million, the lowest for seven years and within a whisker of being the lowest for 17 years.

options for taking the young and long-term unemployed off the dole. For 250,000 under-25s - including the 179,500 who have now been out of work for more than half a year - there will be four possibilities.

These are: a private-sector job with a £60-a-week subsidy to the employer for six months; voluntary-sector work for benefit, plus an extra allowance for up to six months; full-time study on an approved course; or a job with the new Environment Task Force.

In addition, there will be a £75 rebate for employers who take on someone who has been unemployed for more than two years. There were 359,600 people, mainly men between 25 and 49, in this position last month.

The schemes will be funded by proceeds from the windfall levy on privarised utilities to be introduced in the budget, and are expected to cost around £3bn.

The speech set out the well-known - Speech was welcomed warmly across a wide spectrum of opinion. Victor Adebowale of Centrepoint, the homelessness charity whose Foyer scheme ministers have praised, said: "Youth unemployment is a national scandal which needs not one, but several so-

phisticated solutions." Rnth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "Making people more employable has to be the right way forward for coping with un-employment and poverty." However, she said the Government should focus its efforts on people who had been out of work for more than two years as so many of the others would find iobs anyway.

There were no clues yesterday about any surprise welfare-to-work measures that might be included in the budget. There has been speculation that the Chancellor wants to make an early start on more ambitious plans, such as a new tax credit for the low-Their reaffirmation in the Queen's paid to improve work incentives.

Fox-hunting ban faces a long wait

Prospects of a ban on fox-hunting in the near future receded after Labour appeared to distance itself yesterday from taking direct action.

It is understood it will rely on a Private Member's Bill, which are notoriously difficult to get through Parliament, to change the law. However, the Home Office has no current plans to draft and support an anti-foxhunting Bill for a Labour MP to adopt. Jack Straw, Home Secretary, asked yesterday whether the Government would introduce a ban, would only repeat Labour's manifesto commitment to give MPs a free vote in the

Commons on the issue. But a Home Office source later made it clear that a ban on fox-hunting was not a priority for the Home Office, and would be left to an MP to bring in. The source said: "We have the next five years to bring in legislation,

this is not considered a priority." While there is a clear majority in the

Commons opposed to people with hounds chasing foxes, Private Members' Bills can be easily thwarted by parliamentary procedure.

The development will be greeted with dismay by anti-hunting cam-paigners and many MPs, who believed that although Labour has never directly pledged to outlaw fox hunts, the so-called sport would be brought to an end with the introduction of a new government.

This belief was reinforced by comments made by Tony Blair that he would vote to ban fox-hunting if Labour won the election.

Shortly before the election Tony Banks, who has since been made Sports Minister, wrote to Mr Blair asking him to sort out "confusion" over the issue following the publication of the party's manifesto amid fears that Labour had watered down their posi-

tion on fox-hunting. Mr Banks said at the time: "If it isn't clarified there will be intense anger about this, starting with me."

Clanking spirits condemned to a tropical garden

t was like colonic irrigation, or a visit from Dyno-rod. You had no idea how much crud had accreted in the You had no idea how much crud had accreted in the pipes and tubes carrying political debate in this country, until – on 1 May – it was flushed out by the electorate. Many of those uncomfortable and smelly bits of encrustation that had lodged in the S-bends of Parliament had gone, many of them forever. Jacques "Buzz-sav" Arnold; Lady Olga Maitland; Harry "shouter" Greenway and many, many more were carried out on the flow.

All of a sudden there was to be no more preoccupation with the golf-club prejudices of sections of the Conservative Party, we were now permitted to consider abolishing hereditary peerages, establishing Scottish parliaments, what to do about "ordinary" schools, and what would really be in our own best interests in Europe. The drains unblocked, the colon cleansed, we could breathe a little easier - and invite guests round once more.

The colour said it all. Occupying one half of one side of the Chamber was a uniform (though thinning) phalanx of insubstantial grey men in grey suits. This remnant of the party of power sat looking anxious and somehow decayed, like the recently deceased do in films about ghosts. Somehow or other they had died and their spirits were condemned to wander Westminster unshriven, looking for somebody to haunt. But would they be any good at chain-

rattling and hideous moaning? They weren't sure.
Equally unhappy, their leadership candidates sat along the front bench, each carefully separated from the other by

the ethereal form of a colleague.

The disappearing form of Clarke was saved from rubbing its wraithly bottom with the vague buttocks of Hague, by the intercession of a ghastly Mawhinney, Hague from Howard (his grin set in a terrible rigor) by the skeletal Sir George Young: Howard from Lilley by Douglas Hogg: Lilley from Dorrell by Sir Nicholas Lyell. In death, there is no

such thing as society; only rags and coffins.

On the other side of the House – as though the aisle were an ocean – it was tropical summer. Women in gaudy colours danced sambas in the packed gangways; their orange, salmon, scarlet, lime and yellow dresses like a collection of fruits and flowers, sprouting up in an almost indecent profusion. Women! And to add to the feeling of exotica, blacks! Black women! Gays! Young people! Young, gay black women! (Actually, no.) And twins. The Eagle twins, Maria and Angela (Liverpool Garston and Wallasey respectively) sat beside each other in identical scarlet suits, looking like two overripe, happy strawberries.
On the graveyard side a strange man with glasses, a high

voice and an eerily familiar manner got up and tried his hand at a bit of moaning. "Whooooooo," he groaned quietly, "As I am shall ye be! Ye'll rue the day that ye tampered with the British constitution, did away with assisted places, introduced a windfall tax, or altered any part of the inheritance that I bequeathed ye. Hooooo!" Behind him the more energetic ghouls clanked a little and whistled through

But from the middle of his tropical garden a boyish Prime Minister regarded this visitation with a mixture of sympathy and amusement.

It was like one of those thrillers where the dead uncle

has called his assorted nieces and nephews to the family solicitor's, and entertained them from beyond the grave, with injunctions to behave themselves if they are to inherit. Except this nephew listened courteously, and then replied as if to himself - "but I am alive. And you are dead."

The Bills

Education (Reduction in Class Sizes) Bill: Money raised from phasing out the Assisted-Place Scheme to reduce classes. Education Bill: To raise school standards; give parents a role on local education authorities; help to finance school repairs; change policies on selection in grammar schools; establish a General Teaching Council; new student loans. Bank of England Bill: Bank takes control of Interest rates; Bill

also provides for greater accountability of the Bank.

Competition Bill: Reforms and strengthens competition law; prohibits anti-competitive deals and abuse of market power. Statutory Right to Interest on Debts Bill: A new right to claim interest on late payment of commercial debts and a requires large firms to declare how many bills they paid tate.

National Minimum Wage Bill: Provides a statutory national Finance Bill: Enacts the Budget expected next month.

Crime and Disorder Bill: Fast-track punishment for young

Crime and Disorder Bill: Past-track punishment for young offenders; replaces repeat cautions with a single final police warning; reverses the burden of proof to defendants in criminal cases involving children aged 10-13; new sentencing powers. Firearms (Amendment) (No.2) Bill: Extends the ban on private possession of handguns to small-calibre weapons, although the Government will offer a free vote in the Commons. National Health Service (Private Finance) Bill: Clarifies the courter of NISC Truste to enter into contracts with the private. power of NHS Trusts to enter into contracts with the private sector to build hospitals under the Private Finance Initiative.

National Lottery (Amendment) Bill: Allows Lottery funds to
be used to promote education, health and other initiatives.

Local Authority (Capital Receipts) Bill: Aimed at allowing local
authorities to use receipts from the sale of council houses for

building new homes and renovating old ones.
Referendum (Scotland and Wales) Bill: Authorises referenda
on a Scotlish parliament and a Weish assembly.
Scotland Bill: Subject to the result of the referendum, this
will establish the Scotland Parliament.

Wales Bill: Also subject to the referendum, this will set up a ... Welsh Senedd, inheriting the powers of the Welsh Secretary. European Convention on Human Rights Bill: Allows UK citizens to enforce their rights without having to go to the European Court of Human Rights In Strasbourg.

Data Protection Bill: Applies stronger protection to personal, computerised and manually held records.

Greater London Authority (Referendum) Bill: Referendum for new strategic authority for the London and elected mayor.

Regional Development Agencies Bill: New bodies in the regions to encourage inward investment and small businesses. Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill: Wili replace and re-enact provisions to preserve peace and law and order Northern Ireland (Parades and Marches) Bill: Transfers decisions on marches from the police to a new Parades Commission

European Communities (Amendment) Bill: Will be needed after the rolling Intergovernmental Conference on Europe is completed to ratify a new EU Treaty.

Bills promised but not identified in speech

Social Security Bill: Simplifies benefits decision-making and appeals process and introduces new National insurance measures.

Immigration Appeals (Amendment) Bill: Remedies deficiencies for deporting those who are a threat to national security. Wireless Telegraphy (Radio Spectrum) Bill; Introduces auctions of radio spectrum, likely to lead to higher charges for mobile phone users and taxi firms.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Ratification Bill: to ratify the international agreement to end nuclear weapons testing.



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the queen's speech

The central economic objectives of my Government are high and stable levels of economic growth and employment, to be achieved by ensuring opportunity for all.

My Government has pledged to mount a fundamental attack upon youth and long-term unemployment...

A new partnership with business will be at the heart of my Government's plans to build a modern and dynamic economy to improve the competitiveness of British industry.

EDUCATION

End of school fees aid to be first priority

Education Editor

An education Bill abolishing the assisted places scheme will be one of the first pieces of new legislation to reach the statute

The scheme, which subsidises independent school fees for less well-off pupils, will be ended before the summer recess and the money saved will be used to help reduce infant class sizes to 30 and under.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, decided to introduce the emergency Bill to stop independent schools offering more places for Sep-tember 1998. A second Bill to be introduced in the autumn will concentrate on raising standards and changing school structures.

There will be a series of measures which will give the Government a tighter grip over both schools and local authorities. Testing for five-year-olds, ported but did not make statu-

tory, will become mandatory. Ministers will announce today that a new qualification for headteachers, which was to have been voluntary under the Conservatives, will become

Local authorities will be required to set targets of achievement. Ministers and civil servants are discussing whether to make school targets statuto-ry as part of their drive to achieve national literacy and numeracy targets announced ear-

who are in priority need.

tives wanted schools to set their

Local authorities will be required to publish education development plans and appoint parent representatives. They will also have to set up public/private partnerships to provide nursery education in place of the nursery voucher scheme,

which will be scrapped.

Mr Blunkett will take new powers which will allow him to force local authorities to close failing schools and reopen them

under new management.
Authorities said they wanted
to work with ministers to improve standards but urged the Government to give them more powers to intervene earlier in failing schools. Last night they also asked Mr Blunkett to give them a statutory duty to raise standards. Graham Lane of the Local Government Association said: "You can't run 24,000 schools from the Department

Ministers want to emphasise they are more interested in raising standards in the classroom than in school structures. But pledges to abolish grant maintained status and to offer schools the choice of becoming foundation, community or aided will be honoured.

The Bill will also make provision for parental ballots on the future admissions policies of the remaining 161 schools.

A General Teaching Council to promote and regulate the

clause to allow the Government to reform loans for students in higher education after the Dearing report is published in

Details of the changes will be published in a White Paper before the end of next month. Mr Blunkett has promised full con-sultation with both local authorities and grant maintained

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that heads would support much of the programme though the absence of extra money was "a glaring

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers. said that redistributing assisted places money would be "virtu-ally impossible with the present rigid formula under local management of schools". He added: The neatest way forward would be to establish, step by

Local authorities, while emhasising that they were delighted with much of the speech, were concerned that the Government should not centralise too much power in Whitehall.

step, a contractual entitlement

for teachers not to have to teach classes above 30.1

Mr Lane warned ministers not to set targets for authorities and schools nationally. "There would have to be different targets for different authorities and different schools, dependent



Wetherby school waiting at Buckingham Palace yesterday to see the Queenleaving for Westminster Photograph: Rebecca Naden/PA

NORTHERN IRELAND

HEALTH SERVICE Fresh measures swept in to Go-aneau for first NHS deal with Ulster conflict The other mentions of Northern Ireland laid considagenda. A series of reforms are to avoid a recurrence of what she described as last year's "appromised in areas such as pro-

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The Government's plans for Northern Ireland as outlined in the Queen's speech had a decided element of the new broom, promising movement on a range of fronts including the contentious issue of

season is now upon Northern Ireland, the proposed legislation will not be ready until next year. This means arrangements for this year's 3,000-plus parades will continue to be the primary responsibility of the Royal

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, appealed to both Unionists and

palling events". She added: History will not easily forgive anyone who seeks to bring about such a repetition. I am convinced that the best way of making progress is through dialogue leading to accommodation and agreement at local level. I urge all who are work-

Ms Mowlam's appeal reflected the widespread apprehension that the murching season could once again bring confrontation to the streets. Although strenuous efforts to reach agreement have been made, there is no guarantee that events such as July's Drumeree march will not once again flare

erably more emphasis on the Anglo-Irish relationship than was the case during the last two years of the Major administration. Official sources said the government was committed to both the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, and to the framework documents published jointly by London and Dublin in February 1995. This will displease the major

Unionist parties, which de-nounced the framework documents as being far too "green" and have declared they will not use them as a basis for negotiation. Multi-party talks are to resume in Belfast on 3 June. when Unionists can be expected to attempt to prevent the documents being placed on the unique problems.

visions for human rights. Northern Ireland's main antiterrorist legislation is to be overhauled, while there is a commitment to reforms in

Policing in general is to have a programme of reform aimed at increasing public confidence in the RUC, with a review of how appointments are made to the Northern Ireland Police Au-

thority. The promised incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law will, it is said, have important implications for Northern Ireland, the Government believing that specific rights protections

SOCIAL SECURITY

Thirty six cen-

PFI hospital

Service to be built with private ately." money will receive the go-

Plans for the two hospitals. the Norfolk and Norwich in East Anglia and the Dartford and Gravesham in Kent, together worth £300m, were agreed months ago but have local population needs." been held up because of fears that NHS trusts did not have the legal power to enter deals with the private sector.

A Bill to be published to-

barrier and is expected to release the logium of projects awaiting approval under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). A total of 73 schemes, worth a total of £794m, are at various stages of negotiation.

Although the schemes will provide much-needed capital funds for the NHS, after cuts of 17 per cent in the allocation from the Treasury over the past two years, it will give banks and private consortia a bigger say in the running of the

The number of beds will be determined by market forces rather than medical need." David Hunter, director of the Nuffield Institute for Health Policy, in Leeds, said.

Plans for a Bill to end the NHS internal market and abolish fundholding have been shelved on the advice of civil servants who have suggested that Labour's objective of reducing bureauctacy and end-ing "two-tierism" can be achieved without legislation.

A white paper to be published in autumn will set out proposed changes, which will only be followed by a Bill if it is judged necessary.

A Health Department that you can go a long way, if not all the way, with a white spokesman said there were no paper and administrative immediate plans to introduce changes. Don't have legislation it .

Health Editor

The first hospitals in the history of the National Health

Serving to be built with residual.

that you don't need."

However, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said some changes would be introduced "almost immediated."

Addressing senior staff at the NHS headquarters in Leeds last week, he said the Government would examine the balance of resources devoted to hospital and GP care "to ensure these fully reflect

There are fears that this could mean a halt to the transfer of resources from hospital to community care, after Mr Dobson announced a moramorrow will remove this final torium on further hospital closures in London pending a new review, to be completed by the end of the year. NHS managers say concentration of hospital services on

fewer sites is essential to improve efficiency and release the funds necessary for new developments. Mr Dobson said measures would also be taken to ensure GP fundholders "do not enjoy

unfair financial advantages and to cut down on the "current paperchase" of forms and invoices in the system.
The Audit Commission found in a recent report that GP fundholders had amassed

millions of pounds of unspent savings which health authori-ties were unable to to touch. One administrative change already being introduced by NHS trusts is the switch from

one- to three-year rolling con-Tough targets for a reduc-

tion in spending on manage-ment will also be set. Labour has considered establishing common hospital waiting-lists to prevent pa-tients of GP fundholders gain-

ing earlier treatment.

The measure would end two-tierism with the minimum spokesman said: "The view is of disruption and east nothing but a health denartment

The Conservatives said during the election campaign that the interest raised by the receipts helped to keep down public borrowing.

Bank Governor takes charge The Bank of England Bill sets out the new framework for monetary policy, after the Chancellor's announcement last week that he was handing over the responsibility for setting interest rates. A new Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England will decide the level of rates by majority vote each month, in order to meet the Government's inflation target. Gordon Brown is to set the target in next month's Mansion House speech and subsequently in each Budget,

SHORTS

£5bn housing cash freed The Government's manifesto promise to tackle homelessness will be addressed in a Bill allowing the

phased release of up to £5bn in council house sales receipts. But there is no sign yet of Labour fulfilling its other promise of a new duty on local authorities to protect those who are homeless through no fault of their own or

Officials described the Local Authority (Capital

Receipts) Bill announced yesterday as "the first step

towards delivering the Government's commitment to

reinvest capital receipts from the sale of council houses in building new homes and renovating old ones". As well as

tackling homelessness, ministers see the new programme

as a means of providing work in the construction industry.

The new committee will consist of the Governor and his deputy, a second deputy to be announced, two of the Bank's executive directors and four new appointments. It will answer to the Bank's Court of Directors, which will be reformed to incorporate a wider range of interests. The House of Commons Treasury Select Committee will also be able to scrutinise interest rate decisions.

Data protection gets tougher
A new Data Protection Bill will be introduced by the
Government to give effect to the 1895 EC Data Protection Directive. It will mean stronger rules and will apply to certain manually held records as well as computerised ones. It will also set rules for processing personal data, including stricter conditions for sensitive material about health, race or religion. An area of likely controversy will be the impact on the media. Labour promises to safeguard its legitimate interests in access to information. Patricia Wynn Davies

Radio waves suffer windfall tax

An extra "windfall tax" from minicab companies, and mobile phone and pager networks breaks the link between licence fees and and the costs of the radio spectrum used by businesses. A Bill will enable the Government to auction off licences of radio frequencies for set periods in particularly congested areas. The legislation could add 50p a week to the cost of each minicab, and 10p a week to the cost of a mobile phone or pager. It is thought that this move could raise as much as £1bn for the government. Sam Coates

Agencies for English regions

Development agencies to promote investment and help small business are to be created as part of Labour's strategy for the English regions. The agencies could be running within two years, starting on 1 April 1999, but there is no commitment to spend any extra money on them as they would be funded by redeploying resources from existing schemes. The new organisations would also coordinate economic development as existing agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have done. The Bill is expected in the autumn but there is no sign of the promised regional government assemblies.

loyalist marching. But although the marching Ulster Constabulary.

nationalists to do all they could

ing to achieve accommodation to redouble their efforts."

COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

Firms fined for abusing power tury bold on two

Michael Harrison

Companies found guilty of operating cartels or also sing their market power face being fined up to 10 per cent of their turnover under legislation aimed at

strengthening competition law. The Government's legislative programme also contains a Bill giving firms a statutory right to claim interest on late payments - a particular problem for small

However, it appears to have backed away from introducing laws to make it difficult to launch hostile takeover bids. Plans for a root-and-branch reform of competition bodies such as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading also appear to have

been put on the backburner. The Competition Bill will have the effect of incorporating articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome into UK legislation. This will give the director-general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, similar powers to

the European Commission's cartel-busting division. He will be able to mount dawn raids on companies suspected of operating price-fixing rings or abusing their power in particular markets. Third parties will also

have the right to claim damages. The legislation will replace the Restrictive Trade Practices Act with a new law prohibiting anticompetitive agreements, providing a stronger deterrent

against abuses of market power. The OFT and business organisations have lobbied long and hard for a reform of competition law and yesterday the Confederation of British Industry welcomed the new measures. But the new Fair Payment of

Commercial Debts Bill has split the business community. Apart from giving firms a statutory right to interest above a given threshold, it will also require large firms to publish their record on late payment and require government departments to pay their hills on time. Business comment, page 23

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent The social security framework

will be simplified and modernised in order to make it more cost efficient and quicker. system will be streamlined and new technology brought in to replace the existing system, much of which was set up more

than 50 years ago. The Department of Social Security would not say yesterday exactly what form the changes would take, but it seems likely that it will carry on the empha-sis started by Peter Lilley when he was Secretary of State for Social Security. A review of the DSS last October looked for cost-cutting by the Benefits Agency.

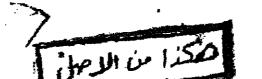
Employers will face fines if their employees' National Insurance contributions are not paid - following the regime introduced by the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise to combat tax evasion.

Employers will also be allowed to settle National Insurance liability on minor and irregular payments to employ-ces in a single lump sum as they can for tax.

But consumer groups said Procedures will be made more simple, the tax/benefit system will be streamlined and decisions, Janet Allbeson, social policy officer for the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, said: "There is a shift in the balance which makes the system a lot easier for civil servants to administer but takes away important safeguards."

One suggestion in the consultation document last year had been to hurry up appeals by removing the automatic right to a hearing in person, and if it was heard in person to have only a chairman rather than two lay members as well,

Ms Allbeson urged Labour not to hurry through ideas which were thought up when the Conservatives were in power but "stop and think ... and put their own stamp on it".



siress will be at the plars to build at the

industry prove the

My Government will improve the National Health Service, as a service providing care on the basis of need to the whole population.

My Government is committed to open and transparent Government.

Decentralisation is essential to my Government's vision of a modern nation ... In the European Union, my Government will take a leading role.

DEVOLUTION

The Scots and Welsh win their big break

Wales will return to the polling whether they want their nations to regain a measure of home rule. Yes' votes would lead to the first parliament in Edin-burgh for almost 300 years, while Wales would get a more nebulous Senedd, its first na-Glyndwr's rising ended in 1406.

Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yester-day that legislation for the two referendums was being given top priority by the new Labour government. The Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill will be published today and its Second Reading is planned for early next week.

Assuming the Bill is passed, voters in Scotland will be asked to say yes or no to two propo-sitions: Do they want a Scottish Parliament, and do they want it to have power to vary income tax by up to 3p in the pound. Voters in Wales will simply be asked if they want a Welsh Senedd. No tax powers are proposed for Wales.

Devolution is likely to be one of the most contentious issues of this parliamentary session, but Tory threats of dogged opposition to home rule have paled in the face of Labour's thumping majority.
Mr Dewar said he was aware

that the Tory-dominated House of Lords had been "rattling its sabres" over devolution for Scotland and Wales but he

hoped peers would not block meanwhile, will try and get the the Bill. They will be very unwise to hold that up unneces-

Though Mr Dewar would

not set a precise date for the ref-erendums, he hoped they would take place as soon as practicable, probably in early autumn. They could hardly be much later if, as is intended, a Scottish parliament is to be in being in 1999. Unlike Labour's last ill-fated devolution referendums of 1979, a simple majority of votes will carry the day, rather than a majority of those entitled to vote. "Fancy franchises are not on the agenda." Mr Dewar said.

Within the next few weeks a White Paper is to be published outlining the Government's plans for the Edinburgh Par-liament so that Scots will know what they are voting on. The 129-member body will be elected by the additional member system and sit in the oval cham-ber of the Royal High School on Calton Hill for fixed four-year

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, has consistently ducked questions on how the SNP will vote in the referendum, arguing that no de-cision could be made in advance of the White Paper. The SNP will try to amend

the Referendum Bill to include a question on independence a move the Government is sure to resist. "Excluding the independence option is a denial of democracy," Mr Salmond said. The Liberal Democrats,

er. The party regards it as 'anathema" as the taxation was an integral part of the Constiby Labour, the Liberal Democrats, trade unions and churches as a blue-print for a

Scottish Parliament.

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said the referendum was unjority of Scottish MPs were elected two weeks ago on a prodevolution platform. "If ever the settled will of the Scottish people was made plain, it was then," he said.

The referendum presents a dilemma for Conservatives in Scotland whose former MPs stood on the staunchly antihome rule policy dictated from Central Office and were wiped out. Pro-devolution Tories believe a parliament in Edinburgh offers an avenue for rebuilding the party and will be arguing for a fresh start at the Scottish Conservative conference in June.

Campaigners for a yes-yes vote in Scotland will hold a preliminary meeting in the Edin-burgh parliament building on Saturday. The non-party Partnership for a Parliament group, shunned by Conservatives and Nationalists, has raised £130,000 from unions and the business community in the hope that a single umbrella body can avoid the squabbling that broke

SHORTS

Lottery cash spread further donal Lottery will be handed over to a non drott making organisation under legislation announced in the

Queen's Speech. The Bill will also allow lottery funds to be used for health and education projects and will set up a National Endowment for Science and the Arts, Nesta, It will devise a new strategy to distribute proceeds. The Bill will seek a "competitive, efficient not-for-profit

operator" to boost the amount of money going towards

good causes. The current operator, Camelot, which was

awarded a seven-year contract, earned pre-tax profit of £77.5m in its first full year of business last year.

LAW AND ORDER

Capital set to Total ban on handguns by elect mayor summer will outlaw 40,000 and council

Randeep Ramesh

London is to get a new authority and an elected mayor to govern the capital, which has been deprived of a voice since Margaret Thatcher abolished the Greater London Council in 1986.

Elections for a mayor and members of the new authority would be held in May 2000. The Government will bring forward a short Bill by the autumn for a London-wide referendum to be held next year.

The referendum's result is unlikely to upset Labour's plans opinion polls have consistently shown support for the proposal running at more than 70 per cent among the city's four million voters.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, and Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, plan a Green Paper - to be published in July - which will set out detailed proposals for the role and powers of the mayor and the Greater London Authority.

Labour's manifesto for London made it plain that the newly elected authority for London would be handed sweeping powers over police, transport and the environment.

Led by a directly elected mayor, the new authority would be granted overall strategy in a whole range of areas, including the right to appoint the board which runs London Transport. Responsibility for the polic-

ing of London would be taken by a board answering to the new authority, with a majority of its members drawn from it, although the "national" policing functions of the Metropolitan · Police would be safeguarded. Although the current admin-

istration would not appreciate the comparison, the responsibilities of the new bodies would not be much different from the old GLC. Set up in 1965, it was responsible for planning policies, traffic management, roads, London Transport, land usage and

the fire brigade. The difference between the old system and the Labour pro- a city-wide authority.

wielded. "The mayor will have the moral power of having been elected. He will be able to stick up for the capital. The GLC was fatally disabled by not having enough power," said Tony Tra-vers, director of the Greater London Group at the London

Onlookers in Central lobby straining to get a view of the Queen yesterday at the State Opening of Parliament

School of Economics. Nick Raynsford said: "The new body will have an important role for economic development - developing partner-ships and attracting new investment, with the mayor leading trade delegations. That is very different from the GLC's function."

Labour ministers were also keen to point out that the elected authorities will not get "bog-ged down" in the day-to-day delivery of services and said there would be "no conflict of responsibility between boroughs and the mayor's function".

The new set-up is likely to see a mayor elected every four years, with annual elections for a third of the new executive. With a salary of at least £100,000, the personal mandate of several million voters and a worldwide profile, the post of elected mayor for London is sure to attract huge interest from politicians

and businessmen. Tony Banks, the new Minister for Sport, has made it clear he would stand for the position, as would Steven Norris, the former Conservative transport minister - even Richard Branson, the flamboyant chairman of

Virgin, has not ruled himself out. The new authority is likely to span all 32 boroughs, as well as the City of London, which constitute the capital. Academics also believe it would have some tax-raising powers - for example, introducing road tolls.

Borough councils would still have responsibility for "social provisions", including education and social services. Labour ministers will make the point that many services - such as transport and urban regenera-tion - have lacked a "strategic" vision which will be provided by

.22 handguns at a cost of at least £12m in compensation. MPs will be given a free vote on the mea-

sure - which is bound to be paspowerful 22 revolvers, are exsed by Labour's huge majority. pected to be banned by the summer, it was disclosed yesterday. The ban is expected to come A Firearms Bill is one of a into force at the same time as raft of measures proposed by the Firearms Act, which outlaws the Government which aims to large-calibre handguns. Colcrack down on youth crime lection of the revolvers could and antisocial behaviour while

then start in the autumn. Mr Straw said his department would give "active consideraenhancing citizens' rights. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday signalled the Government's determination tion" to restriction on the possession of shotguns and airguns. to overcome any threat by the

The main law and order measure proposed yesterday was the Crime and Disorder House of Lords to block a new law to "prohibit the private Bill, which will almost certain-He said that he intended the ly be preceded by a White Panew Bill to be "short and tight" per, but is intended to be law by and to be in place "this side of the end of the year.

One of the most controversial

aspects is the creation of a ty order" to curb antisocial be-nightime curfew for children haviour by nuisance neighbours justice, the Bill will bring fasttrack punishment for persistent young offenders to halve the time from arrest to sentencing.

Other measures include replacing repeat cautions with a single, final warning; scrapping the assumption that children aged 10 to under 14 are incapable of telling wrong from right; giving courts new powers, including imposing "reparation orders" to force children as young as 10 to make amends by working for their victims or the community, and introduces new orders to make parents face up to responsibility for their chil-

dren's misbehaviour. On the disorder front, there will be a new "community safe-

haviour by nuisance neighbours aged 10 and under. On youth and new offences of racial harassment and racially-motivated violence. Action against alcohol-related crime, including greater use of bans on street

drinking, will be introduced. On the question of civil rights there are plans for a Bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic legislation; a Data Protection Bill; and an Immigration Bill which will provide for a right of appeal for those threatened with deportation on national security grounds.

Measures to reform the Crown Prosecution Service, such as appointing a chief crown prosecutor in each police force, are to go ahead, but do not need

The Government said it planned to publish a White Paper on its proposals for consultation.

Human rights guaranteed Citizens will be able to secure the guarantees in the European Convention on Human Rights before United Kingdom courts under the promised Bill to incorporate the convention into British law. A Home Office team has already been put in place to begin drafting the Bill, which will also create a fast-track route to the higher courts for

speedy decisions on difficult or controversial issues. The measure will mean that for the first time since the convention was signed by Council of Europe nations in November 1950, British subjects will be able to enforce their rights in UK courts in the majority of cases instead of going to the European Court of Human Rights.

Crucial questions, however, remain. The key issue is whether British judges would be empowered to strike down a provision in existing law for being in violation of convention rights, as in Canada, or whether the rectification of the breach would have to await an Act of

Britain to rejoin Unesco
The Overseas Development Administration will publish a
White Paper covering all Britain's efforts to help poor
countries in the autumn. It will explain how the Government will implement policies to reduce poverty and promote development "which brings real benefits to the poorest people in the poorest countries".

The Queen's speech also confirmed that Britain will rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation after quitting 12 years ago when the UK had serious concerns about Unesco's effectiveness Charities are now anxious to see if cuts in aid made in the last two years will be reversed. Britain spends about 0.3 per cent of its GDP in aid to the developing world - less than half the UN target.

Immigration appeal body

The Government will move to bring immigration law into line with European rulings if time permits. A Bill would provide a right of appeal for Individuals liable to deportation on grounds of national security, setting up a new body with decision-making powers to consider such appeals. Now, a non-British citizen has no appeal where the Home Secretary regards deportation in the public interest based on national security.

Passage of European law eased

A European Communities (Amendment) Biil will enable new legislation from the Inter-governmental Conference to be passed through the British Parliament. EU members have to pass laws from the IGC through their legislatures. Some Tories have called for a referendum on the amendments, but with Tony Blair's huge majority there is unlikely to be the trouble John Major had in 1992 getting the Maastricht treaty through Parliament. Sam Coates

PUBLIC HEALTH Food standards agency shelved

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Crime Correspondent

possession of handguns".

summer". The new legislation

All handguns, including the less

The Government yesterday pledged to be "open and transparent" over food safety but did not include plans for immediate legislation for a new food standards agency in the Queen's

Instead, it will "consult widely" on recommendations for the agency to ensure public health in all matters of food policy.

Last week, Professor Philip James of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen presented the Prime Minister with a report commissioned when Tony Blair was leader of the Opposition. It has gone out for consultation with comments re-

quested by 20 June. veloping policy, drafting legislation and educating the public. It would report to Parliament Health, taking away the re- way," said a spokeswoman.

bers drawn from various backgrounds and an executive arm.

available to consumers. Legislation will be introduced as soon as possible, but the Government said it was impossible to say whether that would be during this session of

The Consumers' Association The proposed food agency said consumers must be given would be responsible for de- a voice at all levels of the prothrough the Department of be seen to be made a different

sponsibility from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. There would be an overarching commission of about 10 mem-

A Cabinet committee chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster David Clark has been established to drive the project forward. But until the agency is established, changes will be introduced in MAFF to improve openness on food safety issues. In particular, more information will be made

Parliament.

posed Food Standards Agency. "The agency should not just be made a different way; it should

CIGARETTE INDUSTRY

Speedy end to tobacco adverts

Media Correspondent

The Government's plan to ban cigarette advertising as soon as possible has taken the tobacco industry by surprise. Tobacco companies, who spend more than £60m a year on advertising and sponsorship, had been lobbying the Government to phase in a ban over the life of the Parliament.

They had also been hoping that the present voluntary agreement on advertising between themselves and the Government would be used as the basis for the ban because statutory legislation will be harder for any future government to reverse.

The Queen's Speech said a draft bill will be introduced to create "an effective ban on tobacco advertising during this session". There will also be a White Paper in the summer which will look at other means

of reducing smoking.
Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, said she was com-

sential first step. But controlling tobacco consumption requires a much wider range of measures if we are to have a real impact."

Ms Jowell will hold a semi-

nar in the summer to examine all methods of cutting the one third of the UK population who smoke. The legislation for an advertising ban will also consider ban-

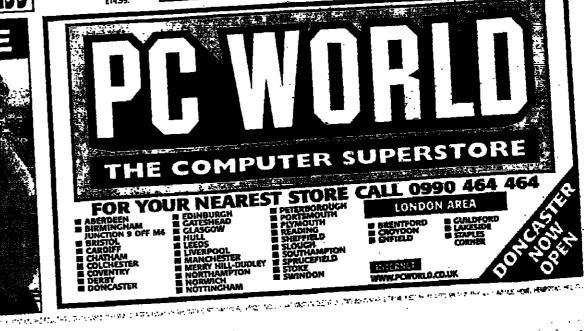
ning tobacco sponsorship of sport. Sponsorship by tobacco companies is worth around £8m a year. Clive Turner, spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, said that tobacco companies use sponsorship to

"enhance the corporate repu-

tation of tobacco companies and generate goodwill", not to attract new smokers. Anti-smoking campaigners welcomed the announcement.

"The Government is committed to introducing a Bill this parliamentary session to ban tobacco advertising. We're very happy about that," said a British Medical Council spokesman.





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make the right choice.

and installations.

What price nature? At £20 trillion a year it is truly our most precious asset

Environment Correspondent

Superb colog ,

PACKARI BELL

Processor.

17861

for all your family and ?

BES THERE'S

What price a wild flower, or lark song, or a view of wooded hills and meadows? Poets might ask the question but biologists and economists have now conspired to come up with an answer.

Package all nature into one glob-al job lot and it's worth £20 trillion a year to humanity. That's almost twice the world's entire gross national product of £11 trillion a year.

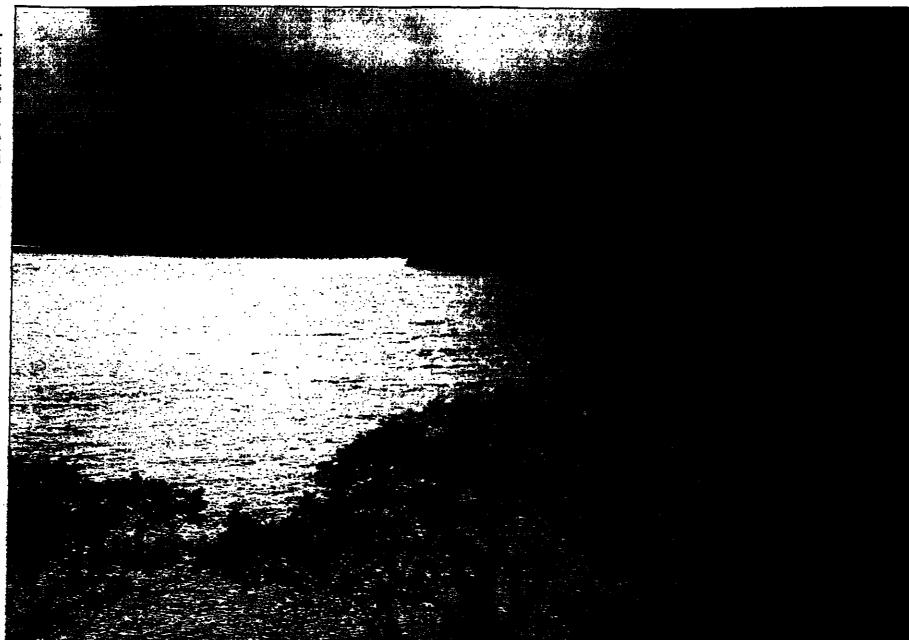
Nature, then, is very big business indeed. We take most of what it does for us, in making life possible and de-lightful, for granted. But we could not begin to meet the bill if we were made to pay for it.

The estimate, by a group of US. Dutch and Argentinian scientists is published in today's issue of the science journal Nature. Much of their work was done during an intensive, one-week workshop at a new National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara,

The 13 scientists divided the earth's multitude of habitats into 16 broad categories or "biomes". These included the deep oceans, fish-rich coastal waters, coral reefs, forests and grassland.

For each biome, they estimated what an average hectare was worth in terms of providing 17 different "ecosystem services". These included recreation and culture, food and raw material production, absorbing and recycling man-made wastes, preventing soil erosion and regulating the climate. Cities, ice and rock, esert and sub-arctic tundra were excluded on the grounds that they pro-vided negligible or zero ecosystem

Each average hectare of open ocean was estimated to be worth £162 per year, while each hectare of tropical forest came in at £1,216. Most valuable of all were swamps and flood plains worth £11,939 per year - most of that through supplying water and controlling floods. Humanity's croplands, bowever, provided only £56 per hectare per year, nearly all of that in food production. Add all of this largess up for the entire globe and you get the mon-



Nature's bounty: Humanity could not begin to meet the bill for the beauty and delight of the Lake District in Cumbria

magnitude" and is almost certainly one would need to increase global

But what does it mean? "One way to look at this ... is that if one were strons £20 trillion which, say the sci- to try to replace the services of entists, only gives a "crude, initial ecosystems at the current margin,

gross national product by £20 trillion." they write.

But "this impossible task would lead to no increase in welfare because we would only be replacing existing

services, and it ignores the fact that 18 pages of footnotes are available many ecosystem services are literally irreplaceable"

The details of their methods and sums are far too big for a Nature article but a six-page spreadsheet and

on the journal's web site, http://www.nature.com.

Nature, however, can be extremely costly to humanity too. Another article in the same issue says Photograph: Warwick Sweeney

the earthquake in Kobe, Japan in January 1995 was the most costly nat-ural disaster in history, doing £79bn worth of damage. It lasted only 20 seconds and killed more than 6,000

Key civil servant criticises Howard

Kim Sengupta and Ian Burreli

The bitter fend between Michael Howard and Ann Widdecombe took another twist yesterday over the former Home Secretary's seeming public reticence on television to stand by a statement he made to Parliament

On BBC 2's Newszight, Mr Howard was pressed repeatedly by Jeremy Pax-man on whether he had threatened to instruct Mr Lewis to suspend John Marriott, the governor of Parkhurst prison. Despite being asked the same question 14 times, the former Home Secretary refused to answer.

Ms Widdecombe said yesterday "On Newsnight Mr Howard refused repeatedly to deny he had threatened to instruct Mr Lewis in respect of the fate of the governor of Parkhurst. On October 19 1995, Michael Howard made that specific denial to the House of Commons. Why was he so shy of doing that on Newsnight?
"Any MP seriously considering vot-

ing for Michael Howard as leader should watch the tape of Newsnight and set that side by side with the Hansard for October 19, 1995, and should compare the two before casting his or her vote".

Last night Mr Howard's position was further weakened by comments made by Brian Landers, who was finance director of the Prison Service at the time of Mr Lewis's sacking: "Knowing the three people concerned, I know whose words I trust. Ms Widdecombe took the time to understand the real problems in a way Michael Howard did not his style was adversarial." he said.

In a statement, Mr Howard yes-terday denied misleading MPs."I would like to repeat once more that there is no truth in any allegation that I misled the House of Commons. Had I done so, it would have been the duty of the Home office officials to point that out so I could correct any inaccuracies. They did not for the simple reason that everything I said

Last night Ms Widdecombe received further backing from her predecessor at the Home Office, Sir Peter Lloyd, who criticised the actions of the former Home Secretary in sacking Derek Lewis.

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Medit Moore Medit Sold for Her supporters say her prison conditions are appalling. The ruth is a very different story

and from left, sympathisers G

e prison service has made undented arrangements for birth of Roisin McAliskey's baby next week, to prevent the

Fein. Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein senior strategist, came to London to visit the suspect-ed IRA bomber in prison this week to raise the profile of her case in the international media. He claimed she was being "persecuted" and subjected to

"inhuman and degrading" con-ditions in Holloway prison, north London, where she is awaiting extradition to Ger-many on charges relating to the mortar bombing of a British Army barracks.

But documents obtained by

The Independent show that during her confinement, Ms McAliskey will be allowed to be accompanied by two "birthing partners" of her choice, ex-pected to be the father of her child, Sean McCotter, and her

mother, the high profile republican, Bernadette Mc-The baby is due on Wednesday and will be delivered at a hospital in London. Ms Mc-Aliskey, whose general health is not good, has been seen weekly by an obstetrician, a gynaccologist and a midwife, gets daily visits from a doctor and is

classes. She can also use the prison swimming pool and gym.

After the birth, she will be alowed to keep her child with her in the prison's mother-andbaby unit, at least until it is nine months old. Papers drawn up by Alan Walker, the prison service head of operations, show that Ms McAliskey has been made

a special case.

The level of treatment is unprecedented for a high-security category A prisoner. Senior rison service officials said they dare not" give their critics ammunition for accusations of unfair treatment.

Ms McAliskey has been vis-ited by an almost constant

ily members and English, Irish and European politicians.

Among those who have been to see her are George Howarth, the Labour MP who is now a Home Office minister with a re-

sponsibility for prisons. Other high-profile visitors include the Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn, Max Madden, the former Labour MP, and Sean Maloney, the Irish senator. The McAliskey case threat-

ens to become an internationcause célèbre and a propaganda disaster for Britain as the new Labour government aims to champion human rights

In the United States, starstudded events have been held to raise money for her. One gathering at the fashionable La Belle Epoque restaurant in New York a fortnight ago raised £12,000 for the pregnant pris-

The Hollywood stars present included Joanne Woodward, the wife of Paul Newman, Ulster-born Liam Neeson and his English wife Natasha Richardson, and Terry George. the former Irish National Liberation Army terrorist and film-maker responsible for In the Name of the Father and Some

Boothroyd bars Sinn Fein MPs

Colin Brown and David McKittrick

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, the newly-elected Sinn Fein MPs, were threatening legal action after being barred from using the Commons by the Speaker. Betty
Boothroyd, for refusing to
Mr Blair is due to set ou swear an oath of allegiance to

the Qucen. The decision was given overwhelming support by MPs on both sides, and was greeted by cheers when it was announced. But there are fears that excluding the two republicans will be used as a propaganda

weapon to boost their support. They are due to turn up at the Commons, probably on Tuesday, to demand entrance and to argue that the decision discriminates against their electors. Republican sources have already made plain their intention to open a London office, either

inside or outside the Commons. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, later said he wanted to make progress on the Ulster crossparty talks, but he repeated that Sinn Fein would not be admitted unless the IRA declared "an unequivocal ceasefire demon-

definitive statement of his policy during a visit to Northern Ireland this week. He said there would be no question of any change to the status of North-ern Ireland without the overwhelming consent of the people of the Province.

Martin McGuinness said: There may be legal avenues we would need to explore. We reserve judgment on all of that un-til we have the full statement. Mr Adams added: "It isn't the end of the world. Part of the silliness of this is that Sinn Fein is in no way dependent on the facilities. but we do have a right to them.

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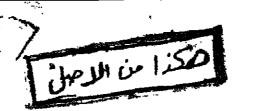




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daughter's



Hatter for Cittees

deal, a court was told yesterday, Unfortunately for Mr Kray, 70, the "underworld customers" it was alleged he tried to sell the drugs to were in fact undercover police officers who trapped with him taped calls, it was said. Mr Kray presented himself as

Charlie Kray, older brother of the old days and the twins", "amused people with tales of twins Rounie and Reggie, was involved in a £39m cocaine ecution, said at Woolwich that behind the affable image there was another side to the defendant's life. This other side of Charles Kray was a man prepared to be involved in the drugs trade," he said.

The court heard that Mr Kray agreed with two others, Ronald Field and Robert Gould, to supply customers with 5kg of cocaine - which has Crown Court, in south London. a street name of " Charlie" -

Mr Kray and his associate were to receive £31,500 per kilogram. The ultimate street value, once it was split into individual deals, would be something in excess of £150,000 per kilo.

However, the court was told, Mr Kray was keen to distance himself from physically handling the narcotic because of his fame. Mr Kelsey-Fry said: "He made it very clear that he would "The Crown, however, allege every week for up to two years. never do that, being as well known as he was, a Kray brother. As he put it, he already had

too many eyes on him". He continued: "The fact that he is the brother of the twins Reggie and Ronnie may explain Gould", Jack and his associates

some of the events of the case. with whom they struck the deal, would hear tape-recorded con-However, you will appreciate no man is his brothers' keeper, and whatever his brothers may have done some 30 years ago cannot in any way adversely affect this defendant."

Kray brother on trial for £39m drug deal

Mr Kray and Mr Field were dealing with a man they knew as Jack and his associates, Mr Kelsey-Fry said, but "unfortunately for Kray, Field and

were not all they seemed to be". "In fact, Jack was an undercover police officer. In the modern era it is a legitimate weapon for police in their battle against serious crime to infiltrate the un-

known they were police officers I wouldn't have supplied them with drugs'." The jurors were told they

derworld ... it is no defence for

those caught to say well if I had

versations made by undercover officers. Mr Kelsey-Fry said they would hear Mr Kray admit he was involved in drug dealing.

Ronald Field and Robert Gould were not on trial because they had already pleaded guilty to supplying cocaine. Mr Kray, of Sanderstead, south London, denies one charge of of offering to supply cocaine, and a second of supplying 2kg of the drug.

Judge Michael Carroll told the jury: "During the course of this trial you will be under the surveillance of police officers when you are not in court. The surveillance of jurors by police officers nowadays is not unusual. It is certainly no cause for alarm and the fact you have surveillance in this case is no reflection whatsoever on the defendant". The court was adjourned

Henry Moore classic sold for £1.36m helps pay daughter's legal bills

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

start of a sale of 44 works of art

expected to net Mrs Danowski £6m, but valuable works by Cézanne and Degas failed to reach their reserve prices.

her father's prodigious output, has left Mrs Danowski with a stack of lawyers' bills. Last year she lost a claim to 215 bronze sculptures worth £100m in the foundation's collection.

Mary Spencer Moore Danowski, 50, an only child and married to an American art dealer, was given many works by her father. The pieces auctioned in New York were from

her personal collection and family trusts.

A reclining figure by Henry Moore fetched £1.36m in New a private collector for £1.36m, York on Tuesday evening at the is a monumental carving in travertine marble dating from left by the sculpture to his daughter, Mary Danowski.

1978. At the time Moore was spending the summers at a vil-

> ble centuries before. The 69inlong figure is one of an

of one shape into the next..."

spending the summers at a vil-The sale by Sotheby's, which continued yesterday, had been quarries in Italy.

with the Henry Moore Foun- an observation Moore made in dation, which owns most of 1931: "The human figure is what interests me deeply, but I have found principles of form and rhythm from the study of natural objects such as pebbles, rocks, bones, trees, plants ... bones have marvellous structural strength and hard tenseness of form, subtle transition

> Two other works from the artists collection sold on Tuesday were Jean-François Millet's

quarries in Italy.

Moore's hero, Michelangelo,
had worked with Carrara mar-

A long-running legal battle acclaimed series exemplifying



Classic piece: Henry Moore's Reclining Figure - Bone Skirt fetched £1.36m when sold at Sotheby's in New York on Tuesday. The sculpture was bought by a private collector

La Baratteuse in black chalk on paper, bought by a dealer for £189,100, and George Seurar's Les Deaux Charrettes, bought by a private collector for £192,510. Moore belonged to a group

pirations. The Trois Baigneuses from Paul Cézanne's bathers series carried a tag of £1m to of major artists who were also £1.3m, but was not sold. Nor was

£310,000 and £434,000.

up the foundation in 1977 to law suit, claimed that bronzes ease Moore's £1m-a year tax made between 1977 and her

distinguished collectors in their own right. Two works, however, fell short of Mrs Danowski's assands of drawings. But Mrs Mrs Danowski helped to set Danowski, in her unsuccessful

father's death were part of the family estate.

Literature accompanying the with the young Mary learning by the artist's side at their Hoglands home in Hertfordshire.

"He was the most tremendous teacher." she recalled. "He would use a Vuillard or a piece sale dwelt on a happier time of African sculpture to make a visual point ... Every second of

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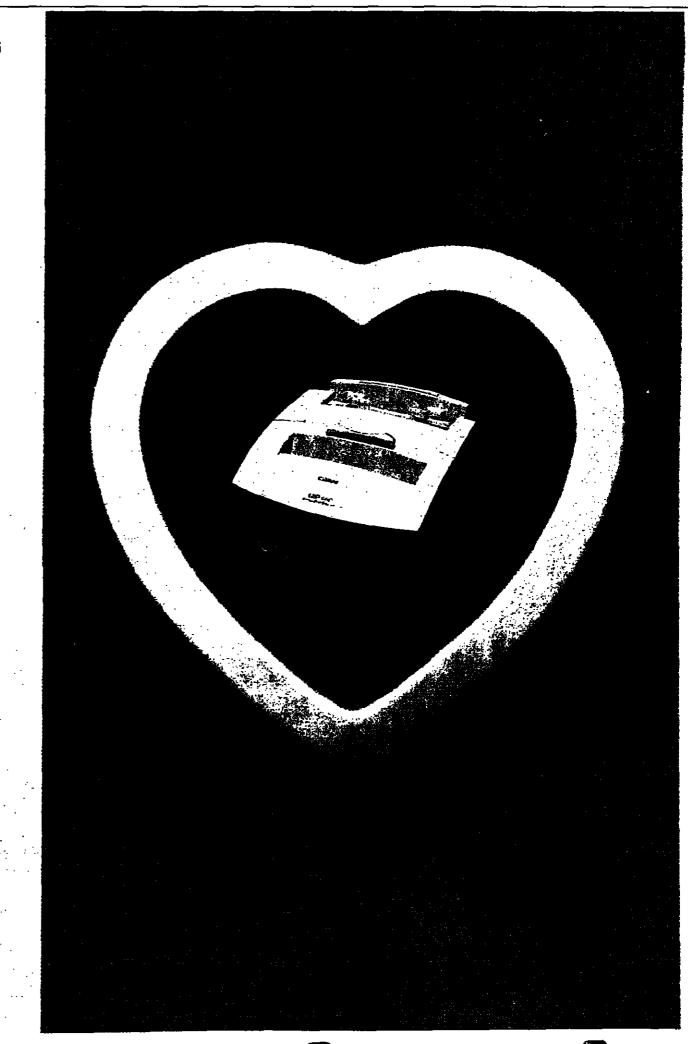
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Nato forges historic deal with Moscow

Alliance to expand eastward in partnership pact with its old foe

Europe Editor

Nato and Russia reached agreement yesterday on a pact which aims to establish a close partnership between the former Cold War enemies while permitting the Western alliance to expand into eastern Europe.

Russia's Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, and Nato's Secretary-General, Javier Solana, clinched the deal in Moscow after months of negotiations often characterised by Russian criticism of Nato's enlargement plans.

The pact, whose precise terms were not made public, is expected to be formally signed at a ceremony in Paris on 27 May. "It is a big victory for reason, it is a big victory for the world community, and it is a big victory for Russia and all governments in the world that are



ments in writing, but on the nuclear question it points out that It remained unclear whether Russia had achieved one of its it has no intention of making new deployments of the kind antee from Nato that it will not feared by Russia. place nuclear weapons, foreign Mr Solana, who described the troops and significant amounts

keen to promote a Nato-Russian relationship, described the pact as "an essential event in the definition of the new architecnegotiations as "very tough", ture of European security". The agreement does not said the agreement would mean that Russia has dropped strengthen European stability

Russian relations. The French

government, which has been

ern alliance should transform itidentity and placing more emphasis on peacekeeping. "So far, there has been no serious progress in this direction," said Russia's Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, underlining the wideits objections to Nato's expan-

sion, or its belief that the Westthreat to Russian security. However, President Boris

Yeltsin made clear at his summit with President Bill Clinton in Helsinki in March that Russia, lacking the means to prevent Nato's expansion, would, for now, settle for a pact that de-

pected to guarantee Russia a significant voice in Nato's deliberations, without allowing it to block particular decisions.

Once approved by Nato's 16 governments, and by Mr Yeltsin, the pact will clear the

Bear hug: Javier Solana, Nato Secretary-General, (left, in near picture) and Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, give each other a pat on the back, far left, before emerging to meet the media in Moscow

Europe to be invited to join the alliance at its Madrid summit in July. The leading candidates are the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, but some states also favour the early inclusion of

Romania and Slovenia. Nato insists that its doors will remain open to new members after the initial wave of enlargement, due to be completed by 1999. However, some defence experts think that Russia will draw a line in the sand if Nato tries to absorb other countries,

notably the Baltic states. In remarks likely to increase the Kremlin's hostility to Baltic entry into Nato. Estonia's President, Lennart Meri, said in Budapest yesterday that his country wanted to join others in presenting "an uncompromising challenge to the empire of evil. or, more accurately to the shadow of its former self". The term "evil empire", made famous by President Renald Reagan in the early 1980s, has been



of military infrastructure in new

member states. Nato has been

reluctant to put such commit-

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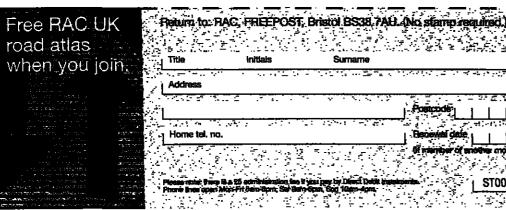
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Western oil firms face Central Asia's political minefield

doing business with Iran.

AFGHANISTAN

it," says James Dorian, an en-

ergy specialist with the Asian Development Bank. "If sanc-

tions were lifted you'd instant-

ly see a mass migration southwards of investors. Indirectly.

Russia has benefited a great deal

from US policy in the region."

There is another chance for

the big Western companies,

however. High on the agenda at ECO was a fourth export pos-

sibility, the pipeline route south

through Afghanistan to the lu-

crative markets of Pakistan and

beyond. The Texas-based com-

pany Unocal, in a consortium

with the Saudi company Delta, are proposing a \$2bu gas line as

soon as hostilities in Afghani-

stan cease. They are also plan-

ning a \$2.5bn oil line.

JJ Fergusson Ashkabad

Some analysts say Central Asia is the next Middle East. Turk-menistan has 21,000 billion cubic metres of gas, the third largest reserve in the world. Neighbouring Uzbekistan has comparable amounts of gas, while the oil reserves of Kazakhastan and Azerbaijan are legends in the industry.

However, these countries have a problem: how to get their products to market. It is partly a question of technology and money: but just as important are the politics, pitting Russia

against Iran, and drawing in the Western powers and their oil and gas compa-

This was the central dilemma preoccupying the heads of seven Centra Asian states, plus Turkey Iran and Pakistan, who gathered under the aegis of ECO (Economic Co-operation Organisation) in Ashkabad to discuss how best to capitalise on the region's enormous reserves of

The existing pipelines of all the former Soviet states naturally go north to-wards Russia, which is unable, or unwilling, to pay the full price for their products.

Since 1993, moreover, Russia has severely limited the amount of oil and gas passing through its territory in order to protect its own exports. None of the alternative routes is easy, since the region is mostly land- locked.

One possibility is to go due east to Japan, but the cost of laying a pipe across the whole of China makes it unlikely. West across the Caspian Sea is a better bet, though tanker transportation costs are prohibitive at \$60 (£38) a ton; which is the reason for a proposed oil pipeline under the Caspian Sea from the giant Kazakh oil field of Tenghiz to Baku, through Georgia or Armenia to Turkey.

On Tuesday, however, before

ideologically the closest to the Rafsanjani trumped everyone by fundamentalist Taliban, who reviving a plan for a line runcontrol two-thirds of Afghanining due south through Turkstan, through which any line menistan and eastern Iran to the must pass, amounts to blatant deep sea terminal at Bandar political interference. Unocal in-Abbas on the Persian Gulf. sists that when they teamed un This is the best and shortest with Delta they had never even route of them all: it is a rule of thumb in the pipeline business that the fewer borders you have heard of the Taliban. "Unocal is the leader of the to cross to get to market, the consortium and we operate better. Western oil companies

a policy of strict political neuwould have looked into the trality." says Marty Miller the company's vice president for Iran option long ago were it not for the small matter of US new ventures in Central Asia. sanctions against companies "We expect our partners to do But politics and business can-There's no question about

not always be separated. While the ousted Afghan president, Burhanuddin KYRGYZSTAN Rabbani, was invited by Turkmenistan to the ECO meeting, the Taliban were not. This week, the fundamentalists complained bitterly - in a statement they said they were the "real representatives" of Afghanistan. They specifically accused Iran of prolonging the Afghan war by supporting the Taliban' northern enemies, simply so that the pipeline might be built through their

> Unocal's other difficulty is that although the Talibans want a pipeline, they don't seem to want Unocal's pipeline. This week, via Radio Shari'ah in Kabul, the fundamentalists backed the bid of a rival gas line project, run by "the

country instead.

famous Argentine company' Bridas. The Argentinians are prepared to start work on the line even before hostilities in Afghanistan has ceased, and the Taliban have gone for the bait. Unocal say such a risk is simply not acceptable to its shareholders. Bridas, meanwhile, are suing Unocal for "tortuous interference" in their

Watching this soap opera with particular attention are the Russians, half of whose export revenues have always come from oil and gas and who have

Unhealthy Russians live short and risky lives

Phil Reeves Moscow

Turn the clock back a century. and imagine you are in Russia. You are a 16-year-old male, struggling to live in an impoverished and backward world. The chances are only one in three that you are literate. Fate has some ghastly surprises in store which will claim the lives of countless millions of your countrymen, and perhaps your own: the First World War, revolution, civil war, famine, Stalin's purges, and a second global conflict in which millions more Russians will die.

And yet: despite all this your chances of survival to the age of 60 are slightly *higher* than those of your counterparts at the end of the 20th century

A report compiled by a pres idential commission in Moscow shows that between 1889 and today, 16-year-old males had a 56 per cent chance of reaching the age of 60. According to the rerates have shaved 2 per cent off those odds. The findings are symptoms of a crisis which has engulfed Russia since the collapse in the Soviet Union. Its population dropped by 350,000 in 1996 and its death rate is higher than any in Europe or the United States, and above most in Africa and Asia.

The Population Reference Service, a ÚS research firm, estimates Russia's 147 million population will drop to 123 million in the next 33 years. The causes are multiple: the collapse of the state health system; an epidemic of beart disease ac celerated by smoking, a terrible diet and rampant alcoholism: an unhealthy environment, and dismal safety standards.

To these trends, the report compiled by the Commission on Women, Family and Demography, adds some depressing de tails: the odds of dying of accidental poisoning in Russia are 20 times higher than they

	e p	earthquake at home, Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi	say the least. Critics say that Un- ocal's alliance with the Saudis,	cessful establishment of alternative routes.	times more likel murder than in
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1997 CARS AT 1967 PRICES? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

Cook pledge to ease passage of single currency

John Lichfield Paris

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said yesterday that the Government, which holds the EU presidency in the first half of next year, would do "every-thing in its power" to make sure the single currency gets off to a sound start "whether we are part of it or not".

Mr Cook also said in an interview with Le Monde that Britain should join Economic Monetary Union if it proves to be a success. His comments echoed remarks that he made earlier this year but they represented a warmer attitude to EMU than the Labour position in the election campaign.

He went on, broadly, to back the French position in the debate on post-EMU management of the European economy. If there is a single cur-rency, with a central bank deciding monetary policy. Mr

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nance ministers should be reinforced, to allow a matching economic strategy devoted to "employment and growth". This is the argument deployed by Paris and supported by other EU countries, but resisted by Bonn.

The Foreign Secretary said EMU raised difficult financial and economic questions for Britain. It was not "appropriate" at this stage to speculate on when the Government might put the question of membership to the British people. The possi-bility of a referendum before the 1999 launch date had not been excluded but, with 18 months to go, it would have a serious im-

Mr Cook also refused to comment on 2002 - the year when euro notes and coins begin to circulate - as a possible British target date. But he added: "If the single currency is launched, and if it is a success, I have already said, that, in the long term, Britain should join."

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His comments, and other European actions and words by the new Government, drew an approving editorial from Le Monde: "Great Britain is no longer kicking for touch. It wants to play in the middle of the European field." The most important clue to the changed attitude across the Channel was Mr Cook's statement that he would do all in his power, as EU council president next year, to ensure the success of EMU.

■ The odds for Europe's single currency starting on time in 1999 have improved over the past month and optimism among commentators has rarely pact on the Government's been higher for a core launch crowded timetable of priorities. group of six countries, a Reuters survey showed yesterday.

An exclusive poll of the views of 49 economists and political analysts across Europe gave an average likelihood of 82 per cent that EMU would start on time in January 1999, com-



Light in the world: A Buddhist monk adding his contribution to the sea of lanterns put up to celebrate Buddha's birthday yesterday at the Chogye Temple in Seoul, South Korea. Buddhism is one of the traditional religions of the country

Photograph: Ahn Young-joon/AP

New York gays on alert as detectives hunt serial killer

David Usborne

America's latest serial killer might be a good-looking, 27year-old gay man from San Diego named Andrew Cunanan, who has been linked by police to a cross-country murder spree that has left four men dead in three states.

Among the victims tied by the FBI to Mr Cunanan is 72-year-old Lee Miglin, a wealthy and high-flying property developer from Chicago. His body was found wrapped in plastic and paper in his home's garage on 4 May.

The gay community in New York, meanwhile, was on high

might be in Manhattan, which has a large homosexual population. The last killing Mr Cunanan is believed to have committed was of a 45-year-old cemetery caretaker in New Jersey last Friday.

The murder trail began, how-ever, in Minneapolis which had been home to two men believed to have been former lovers of Mr Cunanan in San Diego. The body of David Madson, a 33-year-old architect, was found by fishermen beside a lake north of the city on 3 May. A few days before, police had found the body of the other friend, Jeffrey Trail, 28, in the attic of Mr Madson's house.

alert yesterday following police Chicago's élite society is still nanan's mother, who lives in eastern US, there was no know-statements that Mr Cunanan reeling from the death of Mr Illinois, candidly described her ing where Mr Cunanan may be. Chicago's élite society is still

Miglin. Police made the connection with Mr Cunanan after finding a red jeep close to the back to Mr Madson. Subsequently, Mr Miglin's Lexus lim-

Jersey murder scene. There have been some reports that Mr Cunanan was a close friend of Mr Miglin's 25year-old son, who is a struggling actor in California. There is also speculation that Mr Cunanan recently tested positive for the HIV virus and his murder rampage may be an attempt at tak-

ousine was found at the New

ing revenge on former lovers. In comments to one Minneapolis newspaper, Mr Cuson as a "high-class homosexual prostitute

In New York, gay community groups were yesterday fes-tooning Greenwich Village and Chelsea with fliers carrying a picture of Mr Cumanan and offering a \$10,000 reward for any sighting of him.

The manhunt meanwhile continues. The FBI issued an "Armed and Dangerous" alert for Mr Cunanan, giving a full description of the suspect together with photographs of him. Criminologists warned, however, that fugitives can easily disappear in the United States. And although the hunt eastern US, there was no know-

Peking bomb 'was a suicide'

Teresa Poole Peking

Peking police yesterday said that the man who died when a homemade bomb exploded in a city park was a migrant work-er committing suicide. Officials refused to reveal the contents of the letter, or any details of the victim beyond the fact that he came from Hunan province, central China.

afternoon, was in Zhongshan something had happened. Yes on Muslim separatists from public and private mines.

work and across the road from Tiananmen Square, Yesterday news managers had things under control: cleaners and tickct-sellers who had been in the park swore they had heard and noticed nothing at the time of the blast. China normally puts a news clamp on sensitive

events but traffic disruption

during Tuesday's rush-hour The explosion, on Tuesday meant people must have known

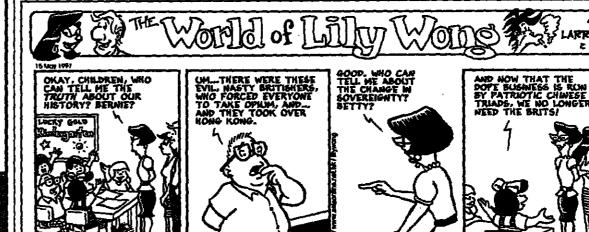
park, next to the compound terday's Peking Daily said a Hu-Xinjiang province, western Chi-where China's leaders live and nan man had committed suicide. na, or state-enterprise workers China's leaders are particu-

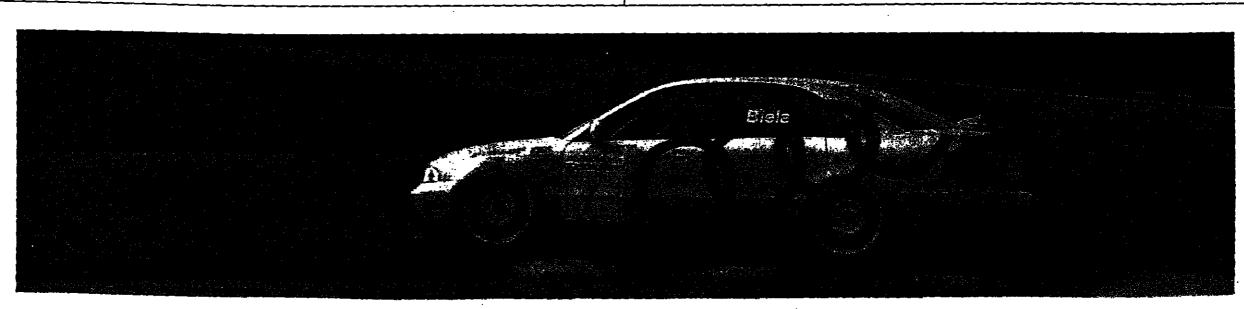
larly concerned that no such incidents take place in the run-up to the return of Hong Kong on 1 July. Security has already been tightened since 7 March. when a bus bomb exploded in a shopping street.

No one has been arrested over that crime or other explosions in Peking around the time, though suspicions centred

na, or state-enterprise workers who have lost their jobs.

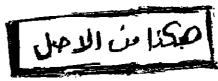
Mystery still surrounds a bus blast on Monday in Shunde, Guangdong province, in which a young couple set off a bomb. killing themselves and three others. Explosions on buses and trains regularly take place in China because people are illegally transporting explosives, which are easily obtainable in a country with a vast network of



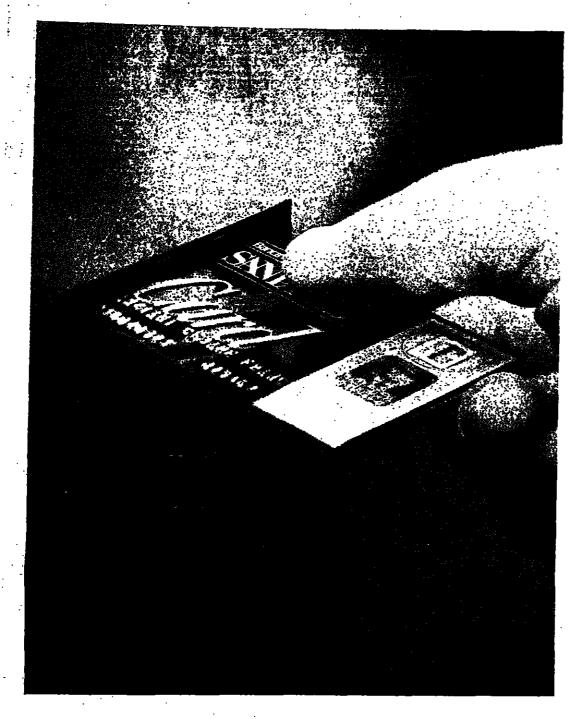


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Zairean rebel fails to turn up for talks

Mediators lose patience as Kinshasans tum capital into 'dead city'

Mary Braid Kinshasa

Last minute international efforts to find a diplomatic solution to Zaire's civil war appeared to falter yesterday when rebel leader Laurent Kabila failed to show for talks aboard the South African supply ship the Outeniqua.

Five hours after the talks, aimed at bringing President Mobutu Sese Seko's 32-year dictatorship to a peaceful end should have begun. President Mobutu and the talks' sponsor, President Nelson Mandela, were still waiting in the Congolese port of Pointe-Noire for Mr Kabila to turn up.

The rebel leader was in the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, though Joe Modise, the South African Defence Minister, had been sent by helicopter to Soyo, further south, to collect him, as previously arranged.

The South Africans, who had



Waiting game: Congolese President Pascal Lesuba and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa in Pointe Noire, Congo yesterday before the aborted talks Photograph: AP

been reluctant to board the ship without an agreement on a transfer of power, made it clear

that this was the final diplomatic

due to go ahead this morning. But the two sides are so far apart that it is unclear whether the meeting can go ahead. South Africa's good will was Officially, the talks are still sorely tested during the first

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talks when it took two days to get the men on board the Outeniqua at the same time. In the 10 days since South

rebel, the country's deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, has shuttled across the continent trying to sell a power-sharing deal to Africa staged the first meeting between the dictator and the bila which would give the rebels

60 per cent of the seats in a parliament, and would leave the Mobutists and the opposition to

share the rest.

President Mobutu would cede power to a transitional au-

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thority, which could then hand over power to Mr Kabila, saving the President's face. But until now the rebels have insisted they are interested in nothing less than a direct and immediate transfer of power from President Mobuto to Mr

Mr Kabila's rebel forces are within 100km of Kinshasa and are pledged to take it by the weekend, if talks fail. The rebellion, backed by Rwanda and Uganda, began in October and the rebels now hold most of the country.

Yesterday Kinshasa's 5 million residents stayed home in response to an opposition call for a ville morte (dead city) day, In protest at proposals that would allow President Mobuto to transfer power to Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo, a contro-versial Roman Catholic cleric.

The streets of the city were deserted except for groups of Kinshasans listening to radio for news of the talks they had hoped would prevent a battle for the capital. A handful of gravediggers at the local Kinsuka cemetery were among the minority that chose to work.

In a city long collapsed, they are paid less than a dollar a month to bury the dead but turn up every day none the less. "We are working out of respect for the dead," said Joseph Mayala,

Swiss may freeze Mobutu's assets

Geneva (Reuters). ---Switzerland said it was considering a Zairean rebel request to freeze President Mobutu Sese Seko's assets in the country. A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the demand came from the interim public prosecutor in the rebelheld city of Lumumbashi. "This request is now being examined," she said. Switzerland had previously sald it wound consider such a request only if it came from the government.

Swiss media estimate Mobutu's fortune to be about \$4bn (£2,5bn) spread among secret bank accounts in Switzedand, where he also owns a luxury villa.

35, a father of two, who relies on direct payments from bereaved relatives of a few dollars or some beer to dig a hole.

Tens of thousands have been buried at Kinsuka since it opened in 1978. Like Kinshasa, it is falling apart. It has revert-ed to jungle because few rela-tives can afford to pay for their graves to be tended. Crumbling concrete crosses, marked RIP in cheap, runny black paint, are lost in shoulder high grass infested with snakes.

The workers stuff leaves up their noses to kill the stench as they work because the government no longer provides masks or equipment.

Michel Manyanya, too old to know his age, said he keeps up his job in the hope of a return to better government and de-

cent pay.

Asked about President Mobutu's responsibility for the dilapidated cemetery and city be becomes agitated. Like many elderly Zaireans he is still terrified to criticise President Mobutu out loud. "Just look around you," he says "see for yourself."

His younger work mates were less reticent. They said they hat-ed their president and hoped he was about to stand down. They would accept anyone, with no guarantees for the future or democracy, in his place.



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significant shorts

Denver jury shown film of suspected bomb lorry

Prosecutors showed jurors surveillance-camera pictures of a truck moving toward the Oklahoma City federal building two minutes before an explosion ripped the building apart. The photos showed the vehicle creeping by in the background outside the apartment lobby. At 9.02am on 19 April 1995 a truck bomb exploded outside the building, killing 168 people. The truck, which a witness said Timothy McVeigh rented two days before the bombing, was linked to the blast through the vehicle identification number on a mangled axle.

AP - Denver

French graft inquiry may widen

The head of a French service which covers some of the same functions as MI5 may face legal action for obstructing investigation of alleged slush-funding of President Chirac's party. Judge Eric Halphen, investigating the RPR's finances, has asked for his power of inquiry to be extended to the activities of Yves Bertrand, head of Renseignements Généraux. Messages sent to Mr Halphen from an apparently well-placed deepthroat implied the RG withheld evidence that the RPR has slush-funds in Switzerland. John Lichfield - Parls

Bangladesh peace deal near

Bangladesh said it had agreed with tribal leaders to end a decades-old insurgency in the south-eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts and soon would sign a peace deal. "We have reached consensus on all issues. We are going to sign a peace deal very soon," chief government negotiator Abul Hasanat Abdullah said. Reuters - Dhak

Yemenis tire of jihad talk

Yemen authorities have arrested an Islamic opposition activist for allegedly calling for a holy war against the government. Ali Zein el-Abideen al-Jifri was detained after ignoring repeated government warnings to stop his anti-government incitement, officials said. AP - Aden

Minorities hail Ukraine treaty

Romania's ethnic minorities, including its 300,000-strong Ukrainian community, welcomed the imminent signature of a post-Communist treaty with Ukraine, seen as vital for the country's Nato membership bid. But nationalists denounced the pact and said it dashed any hope of recovering historic Romanian territories seized by the Soviet Union during the Second World War. Reuters - Bucharest

Serial killer terrorises Cologne Three blue bin-bags containing severed human limbs

have been found in a Cologne suburb in the space of two days. Police said there was no evidence of any link with a suspected serial killer in Relegion who recently terrorised suspected serial killer in Belgium who recently terrorised Mons, where bin-bags containing body parts have disbeen found.

Reuters - CHOST

Turkish attack worries London

Britain said it was worried by reports that thousands of Turkish troops were attacking separatist Kurdish bases in northern Iraq, and urged Ankara not to take excessive steps to ensure its security. The Anatolian news agency reported clashes in northern Iraq between the Turkish troops and the Turkish separatist Kurdistan Workers

Coding devices: A woman refreshing herself at the Stacchus fountain in Munich, Germany, yesterday as the year's first heatwave to lest over the weekend – reached Bavaria with temperatures of nearly 30C

Photograph: AP/Frai

National library speaks volumes about Germany

Low-key opening for Frankfurt's book palace

Ilis Germany's answer to the Ibliothèque Nationale or the Hitish Library. Yesterday the derman Library — the equivent of the grandest libraries in ritain and France - moved ito its new home.

But there is a difference. Vhile the building of new rench and British national liraries has been surrounded alent was opened yesterday

with scarcely a public murmur. The heap of cubes henceforth to be known as the Deutsche

ury shown film

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moth on Euston Road, it nevertheless captures the national mood as well its more illustrious counterparts.

It cost less than the equivalent of £100m, and you would have to travel hundreds of miles from the capital to browse through any of its 15 million volumes

This mecca of German letters with fanfare, the German equiv- is in Frankfurt, capital of books and money and little else. Berlin boasts an annexe,

housing the music collection, and the east German city of Bibliothek is a fitting monument Leipzig doubles up as the secto timid national ambitions. ond German Library, with the Modern but less futuristic than same books as Frankfurt, plus "Our French friends have provoked yawns in his audience. look at a book. Fortunately, its rival in Paris, and nowhere a few specialised collections of erected their national library in Klinsmann and Co apart, there much of the library's vast datanear as expensive as the behe-its own.

This state of affairs would no doubt be regarded in Britain and France as a shambles, and the Leipzig site is certainly an

The new building was conceived in 1981 and the architectural plans were approved in the fateful year of re-unification, nine years later. Leipzig's dowry could not just be carted off to the West, and

accident of history.

thus was born this typical German compromise. The decision to keep the

collections away from the centre of political power was de-

eral character - a special feature that will not be lost in a united; That was his cue to ramble on about Europe, about devolution, culture and subsidiarity.

"The new building of the

German Library stands in

Frankfurt, not in the federal

capital. This spatial and organ-

isational structure is a clear

recognition of Germany's fed-

opening ceremony.

Never again did the word "nation" pass his lips. It is just as well, for that would have only for national institutions, most of which have been stripped of all their relevance.

Germans can be fiercely patriotic about their home village or town and they identify Helmut Kohl at yesterday's strongly with their home regions but above that the Bund - the federal state - is a concept almost as intangible as the European Union, and "nation" a word to be used only sparingly in polite company.

Most real power resides in the 16 Land capitals, each lavishing patronage on opera house, libraries and subsidised theatres. It is doubtful whether most readers in Hamburg or Berlin will ever experience the urge to travel to Frankfurt to

Why the Italians like Inglish any way they spik it

ROME DAYS

It is just as well I have a reasonable command of the English language, or else I don't think I would be able to understand the cutting edge of Italian culture these days. Or, to be more precise, despite having what I consider to be a reasonable command of the English anguage. I am not sure it is posanguage. I am not sure it is possible to penetrate the linguistic ian distributor of a nappy-mak-

talian culture.
No question, English is the hip anguage of the moment. It is copping up in the media, in adn the rough and tumble of poitical debate. One popular newspaper supplement at the noment is called *Perfect English*-unfortunately something of an dealistic concept in the present limate, but one that has the whole country mesmerised.

"When the going gets tough, he tough get going." That is the pet slogan of Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister. Not devastatngly original, but at least be gets he English right. "Hello, hon-

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in the to penetrate the inguishing company thinks the English ing company thinks the English say as they secure their babies' bottoms with fully absorbent plastic. "Any way he dose, you like". That was one newspaper reporter's version of Mikhail Gorbachev's Sinatra doctrine—

Tough talker: Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini

and repeating them ad nauseam - have been taken enthusiasti-

cally to heart, with endless variations on "baby", "story", "lady", "vip" (for VIP), and so on.

The meanings of these terms

6 All the sweethearts whisper 'Hallo, honeychop' to each other 9

Clearly, quite a few of these deformations are due to the fant so much as someone unquirks of a country with no solquirks of a country with no solid tradition of foreign language-id tradition of foreign language-learning. One of last year's film who has stopped working.

"Lady" is used for any politi-cian's wife – not just First Lady

"Lady Prodi, Lady the result of a very Italian in-but also Lady Prodi, Lady ventiveness, a cheerful "more-or-Berlusconi, even Lady Blair. less" attitude to life, and a The word "story" is lobbed menting even with another language. The contrast with France, tamination, is strikingly refreshing. The results range from the and married a teenager.

The king of headline buzz-

usually young, such as "baby pensionato" for a 45-year-old

complete lack of fear of experiwhich announces a good tale to come. Thus "Baby lady story" with its paranoia of foreign con-might refer to the saga of a seasoned politician who seduced

where it seems the lessons of only are there the inevitable

British tabloid journalism - pick- "mafia killer" (spelled without ing on a handful of key words an s even in the plural), "serial an s even in the plural), "serial killer" and even "baby killer" (meaning an implausibly young person accused of murder). There are animal, vegetable and mineral "killer" too - "mascarpone killer" was a rogue tub of cream cheese that landed two kids from Naples in hospital

with botulism poisoning. What has grown up is not Italian, nor even English, but something that linguists and lexicographers refer to as "near-English" - a new category of language that follows its own rules when non-native speakers atletting the countries of the former Eastern bloc do it their way.

Clearly, quite a few of these are ever so slightly out of kilter when non-native speakers attempt to communicate with each other. It is an epidemic sweeping not only across Italy, but through eastern Europe and Asia, too. The sticklers can wave their dog-eared Fowler's Mod-em English Usage around all they like, but it seems unstoppable.

And who would want to stop it anyway? It's all too much fun. To borrow a funky neologism coined by a headline writer recently (playing on the Italian use of the letter "s" to negate the word that follows), interfering in other people's linguistic games must surely be deemed "politically scorrect".

Andrew Gumbel a knife-edge.

Berisha tries to pull a fast one over poll

Andrew Gumbel

President Sali Berisha of Albania pushed his country's gov-ernment to the brink of collapse and angered the international community yesterday by threatening to dissolve parliament and call fresh elections using an electoral law contested by every political party except for his own.

Ignoring the principles of consensus government agreed in March to prevent the country collapsing, he went to his old constituency to inaugurate the campaign. The night before, MPs from his Democratic Party had pushed through their own draft of an electoral law still theoretically under discussion with

the opposition. They acted while the Prime Minister, Bashkim Fino, of the main opposition Socialist Party, was in Washington for talks.

The law they approved accommodated enough of the opposition party's demands for greater proportional representation to avoid looking like a total whitement but fell for short tal whitewash, but fell far short of a satisfactory compromise. The opposition threatened to boycott the poll and leave Mr Fino's government of national reconciliation.

Mr Berisha appeared to be testing the international community's resolve, to see how much he could get away with. Signals yesterday were that Italy, leader of the multinational peace-keeping force in Albania, and the US were not prepared to indulge him. By late afternoon, Mr Berisha appeared to have taken stock of the criticism and his order to dissolve parliament showed no signs of having been carried through, but the situation remained on

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Small

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The spirit of vagabondage and the romance of the open road were at their height in 1914, the year when Laurie Lee was born.

In vain were the attempts by squire, parson and politician to stem what was called "the flight from the land", a rural exodus primarily created by the great agricultural depression which set in at the turn of the century and which would dominate village life until the Second World War. The young walked off the farms to the cities and out of their ancient traditions, leaving behind a kind of beautiful inertia, a penniless scene of "tile-spilling farms", as Lee put it.

Both he and his father fled their home countryside, though differently, leaving their wives behind them, Lee senior because he was driven by the excitements and possibilities of the new freedom, his son in order to gain a perspective on who he was and where he had come from: "Young men don't leave a lush creamy village life solely for economic reasons." Few caught up in the rural stagnation which existed between the wars would have recognised it as lush and creamy, and to give Lee his due he never forgot the hardships and limitations which he coated so famously with opulence.

His work is retrospective, that of the countryman in exile and in it he is always youthful. He believed that "the only truth is what you remember", although he sometimes worried about what he called "the censorship of self" and "some failure between honesty and nerve". Access to a lyrical language gave him just the right balance he needed to record what had happened to him.

One of his attractions as a writer is that he admits to making journeys without a cause. His interest in the Republican cause in Spain was minimal and vet his wonderful account of the defeat of the Republican Army in 1937 makes A Moment of War (1991) an unforgettable addition to the remarkable literature which came out of this conflict. He walked into the war as he had walked out his native villlage of Slad in Gloucestershire. with his fiddle and his open, watching face, never asking himself why. A road led there.

After an office job in Stroud when he left school at fourteen Lee walked to London to live "in the flats, rooms and garrets of this city, the drawers in the human filing-cabinets that stand in portraits of both are relentless Baptist-type hole and, a few blank rows down the streets of yet amused, just as is his de-days later, the companion in tershire 13 May 1997.

Kensington and Notting Hill". The analogy fitted him well be-cause from then on he existed happily in a papery mess with

frequent outings to the pub.
After Cider With Rosie (1959) Lee held court in bars and was very much the author on show, both in London and Slad, and gave little notion of what it meant for him to write and re-write his books, the crafting in soft pencil, and especially the difficulty of hauling back into his consciousness events that had occurred sometimes decades ago.

In order to do this he had to become the young wanderer again. There are few middleaged or elderly views on a Lau-rie Lee page. "One bright June morning, when I was nineteen, I packed ali I had on my back'

and the reader is away. Lee's first poems appeared in the magazine Horizon. Lee had been working with the GPO and Crown Film Units in the early Forties, and then as Publications Editor for the Ministry of Information. Although sometimes in contact with the literary world, it was not until a friend showed some of Lee's work to Cyril Connolly, then editor of Horizon, that he decided to be a writer. Collections of his poetry. The Sun My Monument (1944), The Bloom of Candles (1947) and My Many-Coated Man (1955) were praised for the originality of their technique but criticised for their lack of depth.

And then came Cider With Rosie, an evocation of Lee's village childhood which, on the face of it, might well suggest the sensuous idyll, as no one who had seen the realities of the period would have dared to present them, but which by always viewing them through a country boy's happiness somehow managed to explain how every-

one in the valley got through. Lee's parents, although festooned with a rich lovinghead-shaking array of words, are archetypal products of the 1870 Education Act, "service" and the collapse of land-work. Unlike Lee himself, both were mad on books. Each was a dedicated escapee from the humdrum, father spinning away to suburbs new (cranking his car in one killed him) and mother scription of rural education. All the characters in Cider with Rosie, and especially young Lee, are involved in a perpetual rite of passage and are absorbed in touch and scents and

glimpses - rather than sights. Leonard Woolf, apparently, was less than enthusiastic when the manuscript arrived at the Hogarth Press, but it sold six million copies and under its flowery hower of words countless readers have discovered a tough enough social history to reveal for them how things were for their own country re-

lations not so very long ago.
The success of Cider With
Rosie was to commit Lee to autobiography and he made it the first volume of a trilogy. As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning followed in 1969 and 4 Moment of War in 1991. Try as he might, he could never quite convince people why there were such huge gaps between each book, none of which was lengthy, and the last positively honed to the bone, so to speak. Whilst As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning trails many of the by now celebrated enchantments of Cider With Rosie and allows Lee, as the vagabond boy with the violin, to enter a Spain as yet untouched by tourism and to do what can never be done again, wander around in nearmedieval scenes and encounter generous girls whose innocence was on a par with his own, and with no connection with stillunborn hippiness, A Moment of War abandons all those elements in his previous work which made it beguiling. It is a

committed at the time". These were to walk across the Pyrenees in the December snow during the bloody winter of 1937 and knock on the door of a Republican farmer and say, "Tve come to join you". After a few old Spanish courtesies he was immediately locked up as a spy. Between then and his rescue by Bill Rust, editor of the Daily Worker, Lee would, had he felt at all strongly its ideals, have been part of the martyrdom of. the International Brigade, but he did not. He seems to have walked into a civil war simply as

small masterpiece of recalled

helplessness and terror, the re-

sult of "a number of idiocies I

horror was pulled out and dispatched like a rabbit.

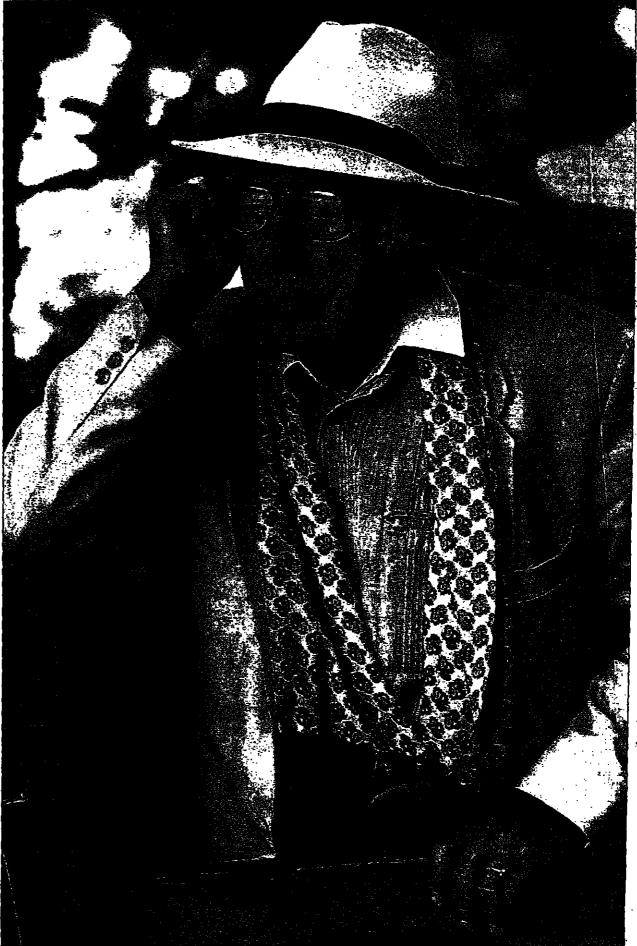
A Moment of War is written with brilliant economy and belongs to the remarkable liter-ature which the Spanish Civil War inspired. It is cinematic in its remorseless detail and atmosphere and it may have been some kind of throwback to the Lee of the film units. It succeeds in doing that rare thing, documenting the helplessness and fright of the individual under rathless soldiering conditions.

As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning led him to the verge of this explosiveness. He sensed the cruelty and murderousness of Spain as he got himself away. When he returned for what to the Republicans was no convincing purpose, it was like stepping on a landmine where there was no need to cross and very nearly losing his life. The narrative is simple and tense, with some of the qualities of a novella. And as so often in accounts of young men close to death, a faint

eroticism floats about it. Laurie Lee was no literary recluse. After hours in his workroom, a papery equivalent of his mother's chaos, he liked to be seen in one of his beloved London pubs and, later, when at last bad sight brought him back to Slad, to be a landmark in the bar there. As a writer he was the disengaged onlooker who understood how his presence altered a place or a situation. He needed to be faraway in time or in miles from what and who were closest to him, his wife, his roots, his travels.

Ronald Blythe

Laurie Lee, poet and writer: born Slad, Gloucestershire 26 June 1914; member, GPO Film Unit 1939-40; member, Crown Film Unit 1941–43; Publications Editor, Ministry of Information 1944–46; member, Green Park Film Unit 1946–47; Caption Writer-in-Chief, 1952–1953; MRE 1952–1953; Chemistry of Parlam 1950–51; MBE 1952; author of The Sun My Monument 1944, Land at War 1945, A Film in Cyprus 1947, The Bloom of Candles 1947, The Voyage of Magelian 1948, My Many-Coated Man 1955, A Rose for Winter 1955, Cider With Rosie 1959, Pockinto total romance which involved loading her shelves with though partly because he 1966. As I Walked Out One every pretty thing, worship of: thought that the Spain-off Walked Out One Midstage to Carl Stay Long 1975, Selected ed reading. Legictures her as Majorite. Hought that the Spain-off Stay Long 1975, Selected ed reading. Legictures her as Majorite. Hought that the Spain-off Stay Long 1975, Selected ed reading. Legictures her as Majorite. Hought and another, lad A Moment of War-1991; marhis father as depotrable. His were thrown into a John the ried 1950 Catherine Polge (one portraits of both are releasiless. Bartist type, hole and a few depotrate: died Slad Glovess.



Flowery bower of words: Lee's work is that of the countryman in exile, and in it he is always youthful

Photograph: Christopher Jone

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atrical event

Geoffrey Parkhouse

thought, each with a good case to deploy, about the parliamentary lobby system. The first is that it is a conspiracy and racket, a system whereby politicians, particularly senior ministers, can con editors and manipulate newspaper offices. by making use of favoured journalists, by feeding them stories, nuggets, and titbits of information. Some lobby correspondents have infuriated their colleagues in the rest of Fleet that since they were "in the know" and their colleagues not in the Commons "out of the precedence over that of other journalists. Certain it is that the "magic circle" of lobby correspondents was much resented among those concerned with freedom of information.

The second school of thought has it that the lobby system is what Harold Wilson repeatedly told them and us was the "sildemocracy, one of the glories of

There are two schools of the British system of government (until at least the "D" Notice affair in 1966, when the lobby turned on him for attacking Colonel Sammy Lohan of the Ministry of Defence). The lobby was held up as an essential conduit between government, Parliament and the press based on trust. The justification for this supposedly "cosy relationship" is that the lobby correspondent would get more out of a minister and MPs, openly in this way, than out of an adversarial Street by pretending to editors relationship. And one of the examples most frequently cited for such success, was Geoffrey in the Commons "out of the know" their advice should take Herald (till 1992 the Glasgow Herald) from 1975 until 1997, chairman of the Lobby 1988-89 - quite an honour for a journalist representing a nonmetropolitan newspaper.

Parkhouse was born in Glasgow of English parents; his father worked in a bank. He was educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex and then at St Edver thread" of Parliamentary mund Hall, Oxford, where he distinguished himself as a cen-



Parkhouse: quizzical looks

tre three-quarter in rugby. It was his English background - albeit born in Scotland - almost alone amongst those working for a Scottish newspaper that gave him a unique over-arching view of the devolution contro-

versies of the late 1970s. Parkhouse's first job on leaving university was with a London news agency. The need for speed and accuracy and the wide variations in the work he did gave him a first-class train-

ng. He then moved to the Dai- .. by Herald_ which was a Labour newspaper, and he introduced himself to me, then a young which was about his best connection with the Labour Party to whom he was always nice but rarely sympathetic. Feeling far more at home with a right-wing newspaper he

moved to the Daily Mail and then to the Sunday Express for whom he wrote some wellremembered profiles of leading politicians such as Rab Butler, Peter Thorneveroft and lan MacLeod. It was on the strength of this work that lain Lindsay Smith, then the editor of the Glasgow Herald, gave him the appointment which was to be the culmination of his

life's work. Parkhouse had a routine. After breakfast he would go riding in Richmond Park. He would then gravitate towards the Garrick Club or a restaurant at lunch-time. In harness with his personal and professional

great friend Ian Aitken, the equally hard-working political editor of the Guardian, he would entertain a politician to Labour MP, as a former em- lunch. I can confirm from a ployee of the Daily Herald - dozen such invitations over the years that those lunches were convivial in the extreme, filled with gaiety, and as I left I realised that I had told these two charmers more candid things than I had meant to. An equal pleasure was lunching with Parkhouse and Julia Langdon,

his colleague in the Lobby.

who is the mother of his adored

small son and daughter.

Returning to his place in the gallery at Question Time, Parkhouse could be spied casting his quizzical looks on the parliamentary bear pit. He would then adjourn to ministerial briefings, talk to his chums (among whom could be numbered the leading members of the Tory government in the last 18 years) and any MPs with interesting things to tell him. At 7.30pm he would file his copy. Arnold Kemp, his editor for 14 years,

pays eloquent tribute to the val-

defined him thus.

In July 1992 the applicant ap-

plied for registration as a

British citizen. In February

1994 he received a further let-

ter telling him that the infor-

mation in the previous letter

had been incorrect. He did

not meet the requirements of

section 4(2) of the 1981 Act as

he had not been in the United

Kingdom for most of the qual-

ue that the Herald placed on Parkhouse's copy which made the paper a serious political organ of account far beyond Greater Glasgow.

Parkhouse's heyday was perhans in 1978/79 when he covered the events that surrounded the Scotland and Wales Acts and the referendum in which they failed. On 24 July 1978 he wrote: "The only thing that is stopping the Government from admitting now that it is not going to announce a referendum date is that a decision basn't yet been taken about how best to break it to the Scottish people." He was full of insights.

Vintage Parkhouse appeared on I March 1979, the day of the referendum, under the headline Yes, No . . . But What If It Is Maybe?" Parkhouse put it thus: If only Scotland will say clearly "Yes" or "No" today... but the signs are that the most likely answer will "Maybe". Maybe we do want an Assembly,

maybe we don't. Maybe, just at this time, we don't much care one way or So today's referendum decision - foreshadowed by opinion poils indi-cating that less than four in 10 Scots approve the Scotland Act - becomes the headache of next Thursday's Cabinet, with very much more than just an Assembly at stake.

Plus ça change. Parkhouse continued: More again, it becomes a dilerama for the Tories and a heartache for the Nationalists, Only the Liberals could be smug in their claim that their federal argument has not been put to

There is another Maybe. Maybe the politicians have confused the issue so much that we don't, even now sue so much mat we on t, even now as we go to the polling booths; fully understand quite what we're supposed to be voting about - or for whom. (Who is this person Block Grant, I heard asked at one meeting.) This spells trouble for the parties who have been about a tracked in Section 1. have reached a watershed in Scottish politics. A Maybe answer today could be particularly damaging to the Labour Party, which as ill-luck would have it is committed to its annual con-ference in Perth next week.

Unless there is a clear "Yes" what can the Scottish Secretary of State, Mr Bruce Millan, tell his party at their conference? How can the conference agenda be padded out if the As-sembly, about which there is a mass of resolutions, is still up in the air?

Parkhouse concluded:

If the Scots are judged to be still unsure about what they want. Westaster will be tempted to sit on the Scotland Act while a board England shrugs her shoulders. What a cry will go up from the Nationalists then of a Scotland cheated by Government a Scotland cheated by Government incompetence and rival party antipathy. Nothing could give the SNP such a re-charge. Nothing could be more likely to destroy one of the chief objects of both Labour and Tory politicians – to neutralise the Nationalists. In this piquant sense, a timid answer from Scotland today could have the most profound implications for Britain as a whole.

It is a matter of infinite recret

It is a matter of infinite regret that Geoffrey Parkhouse will not be in his customary place in the parliamentary gallery next week, pencil poised, to offer his thoughts on the Referendum Bill, and later on the 1997-98 Scotland and Wales legislation. Tam Dalyeli

Geoffrey Parkhouse, journalist: born Glasgow 19 January 1935: Political Eduor, the Herald 1975-97; married 1963 Pauline Coldwell two sons; marriage dissolved) 1996 Julia Langdon (one son, one daughter); died London 12 May 1997.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

SCHWARZ: Clare, beloved daughter Stephen and Tina, died on 10 May 1997, aged 21. The Juneral will be on 21 May, enquiries to 0171-354 3396.

MEMORIAL SERVICES WARNER: Sian, a service of thanks-giving for the life of Sian Warner will be held in the Chapel of Somerville College, Oxford at 2pm on Saturdny 7 June 1997.

For Gazette, telephone 0171-293 2012.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS neess Rayal opens the new printing lac-tists Printing Company. Aspley, Notting-d vants Rayal Air Force Dighy. Loncoln is Mangaret visits Rayal Air Force Colley-constitutions. The Dalar of Gloscoster constitution of Many 5 Church Hones we returbished St. Many 5 Church Hones opens the returbished St Many's Church Hoster Alzeshowses, and the Lower Chor. Alzeshowses, and the Lower Chor. Alzeshowses, Loudon W13. The Buckess of Gloucesties. Petron, aftereds an Evening of Opens us and of the Not-time Hill Housing Futs. In the State Apartment, Kensaggor Palsec, Loudon W8. The Duke of Kens. Patron, the British Memsear Guild, almends the annual huncheon, at the Royal Automobile Chir. Loudon SW19. Princeys Alexandra. Patron, waits Lee House, Loudon SW19.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy Mounted Regument meants the Queen's Left Guard at Horse Canada. Ist Battakon Sonts Guards mounts the Charm's Carada at Backingham Palace. 11 Journ land provided by the Weich Guards.

Birthdays Sir James Baddiley, biochemist, 79; Sir William Batty, former chairman, Ford Motor Co, 84; Mr David

Boston, former director, Horniman Museum, 66; Dame Eugenia Charles, former prime minister of Dominica, 78; Miss Constance Cummings, actress, 87: Mr Ted Dester, former England cricket captain, 62; Mr Brian Eno, rock musician and composer, 49; The Hon David Gore-Booth, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 54; Mr John Lanchbery, conductor and ballet composer, 74; Miss Barbara Lott, actress, 77; Lord McDonald, former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 81; Sir College of Justice in Scotland, of; sur Frederick Mason, former diplomat, 84; Mr Mike Oldfield, singer and gui-tarist, 44; Professor Philip Reynolds, former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster Iormer Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 71; Mr Anthony Shaffer, playwright, 71; Mr Peter Shaffer, playwright, 71; Mr Peter Smith, High Commissioner to Lesotho, 55; Mr Ralph Steadman, cartioonist, 61; Professor Sir Eric Stroud, paedia-

trician, 73; Sir David Trippier, former government minister, 51.

Anniversaries Births: Lyman Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz., 1856; Pierre Curie, physicist. 1859; Frank Horn-by, inventor of Meccano, 1863; James Mason, actor, 1909. Deaths: Ephraim Chambers, encyclopaedist, 1740; Ed-mund Kean, actor, 1833; Emily Elizabeth Dickinson, poet, 1886; Joseph Whitaker, publisher and founder of

Whitaker's Almanack, 1895; Rita Hayworth, actress, 1987. On this day: the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, med after Elias Ashmole) was founded, 1679: Mme Edith Cresson became the first woman prime minister of France, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Bertha and Rupert, St Dymphma, St Gerebermus, St Hallward, St Hilary of Galeata, St Isa-ias of Rostov, St Isidore of Chios, St Isidore the Farmer, St Peter of Lampsacus and St Torquatus and his

Lectures

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Look and Learn (iii): Pissarro, Portrait of Cezanne", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Olivia Callea, "Marco Polo: a journey to the

Far East", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liz Ride-al, "Elizabeth I: queen of portraits",

Exeter University: Professor Hants Mommomsen, "Hitler's Role in the Third Reich", 2pm; Dr Alastair Logan, "Christian Identity in Terms of Initiation and Lifestyle" (Boundy Memorial Lecture), 5.15pm. London School of Economics. London WC2: Professor John Stone, New Paradigms for Old? Ethnic and Racial Studies on the Eve of the Milennium" (Ethnic and Racial Stud-

ies Lecture), 5.30pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Professor Steven Ley, "Sweet Dreams: new strategies for oligosaccharide as-sembly" (Bakerlan Lecture), 5.30pm.

Home Secretary's decision unfair and must be quashed

Home Department ex parte Khan; Oneen's Bench Division Crown Office List (Mr Justice McCullough) 9 May 1997

Where a British Dependent Territories citizen had mistakenly been informed that he was deemed to be a British citizen and that it was open to him to apply for a British passport, the Home Secretary's subsequent decision that he was an illegal entrant, without giving him the opportunity to make representations, could not be

Mr Justice McCullough allowed the applicant's applica-tion for judicial review of the decision of the Home Secretary that he was an illegal entrant.

The applicant was born a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies in Pakistan. When the British Nationality Act 1991 came into force he became a British Dependent Territories citizen with no right of abode in the United Kingdom.

presented his United King-

He arrived in the United Kingdom in February 1992 and

LAW REPORT

15 May 1997

dom passport, which correctly described his status and stated or to the receipt of his application, which had therefore that he was subject to immibeen refused. It was, however. gration control. The applicant open to him to reapply for registration when he could meet believed, however, that he was the statutory requirements.

The applicant then applied entitled to enter and depart

from the United Kingdom as he for a two year Commonwealth Pending inquiry into his holiday visa. In response he reclaim to such a right he was ceived a letter telling him that he was an illegal entrant and that he should make arrangegranted temporary admission. On 28 May 1992 he received a letter from the Chief Immiments to return to Pakistan. gration Officer, saying that as Robert de Mello (Elisabeth Davidge, Birmingham) for the applicant; he was deemed to be a British citizen it was open to him to ap-ply for a British passport which Eleanor Grey (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary.

Mr Justice McCullough said that it had been submitted for. the applicant that the letter of 28 May 1992, though incapable of giving rise to a legitimate expectation that he would be granted British citizenship, gave rise to a legitimate expectation that he would be able to remain the United Kingdom and would not be treated as an ilgiven the opportunity to make

Further, given the letter of 28 May, the decision to treat him as an illegal entrant was either unfair, in that it was taken without his having first been given the opprtunity to make representations, or Wednesbury unreasonable in that it was so unconscionably harsh that no reasonable Home Secretary could have made it.

It had been submitted for the Home Secretary that the doctrine of legitimate expectation required that a person who had acted on the faith of a representation must demonstrate that he had suffered detriment consequence.

However, a legitimate ex-ectation had been founded in the absence of detrument: see R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p Rud-dock [1987] 1 WLR 1482, and R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p Khan ifying period of five years pri- legal entrant without being [1984] 1 WLR 1337.

expectation was founded in fairness, and there were observations in the authorities which stressed that fairness required that an authority, before departing from a previously cy, should afford a hearing to those affected. If fairness demanded that when public pronouncements were made, why should it demand less when the statement was made to the only individual affected by it? Whether one regarded what had happened as a breach of fairness, or as the denial of a legitimate expectation, or as a decision taken beyond the bounds of reasonableness, it was a

When the matter was reconsidered it was to be hoped that the Home Secretary might find it possible to allow the applicant to remain for such longer period as might be necessary to bring him within the requirements of section 4 of the

British Nationality Act 1981.

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The doctrine of legitimate

decision which should be

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Royalty meets radicalism in Wonderland

very day in every way, we go on trying to adjust. Tony Blair rises to the despatch box, and we look about thinking, "Where am 1?" Labour politicians are called "Minister", and their views are called "government policy". Everything is the reverse of the way it has been since more than half the population can remember. What kind of Lewis Carroll world is this? Michael Heseltine is spotted wandering the pavement, where formerly a car would whisk him off without any of us noticing anything but the outriders.

The most disconcerting thing about yesterday's pomp and pretension was hearing our domestically bespectacled monarch recite left-wing language -"my government", she said, will "attack" youth unemployment, obliterate competition in the health service, and (as she didn't say) generally set about the ears of "my" previous government. (Actually it's not her government, it's ours - but that reform can wait a while.)

On the one side, we are all still startled by how much has changed; yet at the same time we are pinching ourselves and asking how much has really changed. In his response to the Queen's Speech, Mr Blair pointed up the way in which cartoonists, commentators and saloon-bar pontificators had falsely repeated during the

election campaign that there was lit-tle difference between the Old Tories and New Labour. Thankfully, it was never a trap this paper fell into: to us, it always seemed clear that Mr Blair meant what he said when he promised (warned?) that he would be more radical than people realised. And he has already started to fulfil that promise.

On some fronts, Labour plans to undo what it sees as Tory error: health service competition; inadequately stem opposition to the private possession of handguns; poor control of food quality. Mr Blair's government continues where continuation seems right, leaving intact many laws that it opposed while in opposition but now accepts in government. But yesterday's 22-Bill programme was mostly not of the undoing kind. Over-whelmingly, the legislative contents of the Queen's Speech aim to set a new course for government.

What tentative interpretations should we place on the "project" (as New Labour MPs horribly call it) thus far? Uncharitably, we might start by wondering if the Notting Hill set have been afflicted with a little surge of New Puritanism. After all, there is quite a bit of banning in this Queen's Speech. Handguns for a start (hip hip) - but also tobacco advertising (hurray), unruly behaviour by children and neighbourhood reprobates.



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But it would be a cheap jibe: laws are usually about preventing things, rather than enabling them, and Labour is no different to any other government in this. After all, those things are well worth banning. Indeed, since we're in the banning mode, why not ban phrases like "the project" from our political language? Could we also delete the phrase "onmessage" before it infects every part of our national life? And (by the by) what happened to the ambition to ban the killing of foxes for sport?

It is good, however, to see that the eagerness to ban things has not yet

ranged into the realm of banning newspapers' freedom to inquire into the messy behaviour of public people by introducing a restrictive privacy law: Mr Blair should think very carefully before aiming that measure at the statute book.

Banning, however, is not what government is mainly about, and it is surely not what New Labour should be about. It should be about creating opportunity. The minimum wage might be seen as another "banning" measure - banning employers from paying their workers the lowest rate they can get away with. In fact,

break free of reliance on welfare. It is good, too, to see that Mr Blair has placed this measure in front of any attempt to legislate on trade-union representation: here he has got the priorities right.

Overall, the Speech is a good balance between grand social measures (about which we still know too little to judge, notably in the Big Issue of education), and smaller but signifi-cant changes of direction. But there is one area where it seems fair to pose sharp questions, and raise our own standard: constitutional change. Creating a New Britain is first of all about social reform, yes; but it is also important that this government takes its historic opportunity to effect deeper political reforms.

Yesterday witnessed a healthy start. Incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights will effect a profound change in our political and judicial culture, enabling ordinary people to see their rights fought over in their own national courts, and judged by their own judges. Nobody should underestimate the significance of this change. Equally, devolving power to Scotland and Wales (as those nations will surely vote in referendums to do) will bring about a long-term shift in our culture. Bring-

though, the minimum wage is about ing back strategic government for creating the opportunity for people to London, where nearly one in 10 London, where nearly one in 10 British people lives, is no small matter, either: only pray that Labour keeps the new authority streamlined, and avoids creating a monster to rival the wasteful old GLC.

But what happened to reform of the House of Lords? Will that promise be honoured, or is it just a vague threat, to be held in reserve and used only if peers attempt to frustrate the Commons? Why not a White Paper on that, as on freedom of information?

Reforming the Lords is not to be ducked. Moreover, it will be an immensely popular measure, everywhere except in the House of Lords. Abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers is a long overdue reform that the nation overwhelmingly wants. This government's true radicalism will first be tested by its social programme - but it will eventually be proved by its determination to effect root and branch constitutional change. And that must, ultimately, include voting reform too. We are willing to wait a parliamentary session or two; but we hope that those new young backbenchers, who by a large majority believe in electoral reform, will not grow old and cynical before they get the chance to transform our political

Chancellor's act of 'good faith'

Sir: Diane Abbott MP (Letters, 14 May) argues that there is no causal relationship between "central bank independence and low inflation".

She would of course be correct if the Conservatives were still in office. Sadly, the history of financial institutions and the money markets under Labour governments is one of mutual distrust and suspicion - therefore this Labour government needs to prove its integrity and competency.

Labour was not elected on a programme of wholescale reform of the "commanding heights" of the economy. It was elected to deliver pragmatic economic and social policies acknowledging the economic constraints imposed on an individual nation state. With this in mind, the Chancellor's move to allow "symbolic" freedom for the central bank to set interest rates is an act of good faith. Councillor JEREMY KILLINGRAY London Borough of Hackney (Lab)

Sir: Diane Abbott and Robin Ramsay (Letters, 14 May) are themselves guilty of missing the point of giving the "Old Lady" her ndependence.

Mr Ramsay talks emotively of the sacrifice of British manufacturing in the interests of an inflation target. Manufacturers are eager for a low and sustainable. level of inflation together with stable interest rates rather than large, mistimed swings in rates. Independence is a means to this end, something that is recognised by a very export-dependent German manufacturing sector.

In allowing independence, the Chancellor has recognised the Leninist principle that to destroy a liberal society you must allow the debasement of the currency and to protect it the value of the money must be stabilised.

Price and interest rate stability will remove uncertainty, increase investment, growth and jobs. ROBERT COFIE

Vote counting is a theatrical event

Sir. H B Gould (Letters, 10 May), having observed a few clumsy fingers at a count of votes on 1

May, advocates electronic voting. The UK's antiquated system is both enormously robust and takes place in full view of observers from all the parties. Occasionally a few papers may get into the wrong pile, but if this would have a significant effect on the result, the procedures for a recount ensure that extra checks are carried out.

Each declaration is a valuable theatrical event. The complete process, extending over a night and most of the next day, provides the nation with a memorable experience which has all the excitement of a race. Think of what it would be like if, instead, voters were provided with an on-line keypad on which to vote. The moment the polls closed a computer in each constituency would have all the data needed to declare the local result. The national result could be declared a

few nanoseconds later. But someone would have had to make absolutely sure that no file could be hacked, that the network was in perfect order, that the software had been tested and that

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -



all the computers were backed up by stand-by machines. All this would need an investment of tens of millions of pounds - hardly worth it when general elections take place so infrequently.

Let's keep paper voting slips "on the table" and counted in full view. BOB YOUNG Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: H B Gould (letter, 10 May) is right: electronic voting is perfectly feasible and efficient. Its first use, though, should be in the longoverdue reform of the archaic voting system of the House of

Voting in the House of Commons is a long and elaborate business. The members actually divide by trooping into lobbies ... where they are counted like sheep by the clerks. This wastes a lot of time and ought to be altered, for sometimes an hour or more a day is wasted by this rather childish method of counting.

Thus the Children's Encyclopedia in 1921. Seventy-seven years later, with today's pressures, the practice is even more absurd. It is probably too much to hope for a sensible debating chamber, but the blowing away of a few cobwebs would help. Perhaps that wretched opera hat could go as well. GLANGLEY

Minister found

Bristol

Sir: If Stanley Alderson (letter, 13 May) looks in the government list under Department of Trade and Industry he will find that John Battle is named as the minister for industry, energy, science and technology.
MARGARET EDMONDS

Cyclists blamed for the inept few

Sir: I write to agree with John Lewis (Letters, 14 May). I have cycled to work in London for 16 years, including through two pregnancies and carrying a young child on the back of the bike without serious accident. I am continually outraged by the behaviour of some other cyclists,

whose behaviour is unlawful. It not only means that we are all assumed to act in this way, but at times their actions have jeopardised my safety. It is enough that we have to contend with we have to contend with vehicle-led transport policy and tokenistic "cycleways", but that we should all take the blame for the actions of a minority of inept and often "fairweather" cyclists is

1TTOAD

London SE7

Sir: Only one feature of the replies by your motorist correspondents (Letters, 13 May) to Hugh Hollinghurst's letter about lawbreaking cyclists was surprising: it is the first time I have seen it suggested that cyclists pose a danger to motorists. Must it be pointed out that cyclists do not

travel at 40mph? During my daily cycle ride between the station and my London office, I see vehicles crossing red lights in large numbers. I see vehicles speeding over pedestrian crossings. I see

wear metal jackets and do not

pedestrians and cyclists regularly imperilled by woeful disregard by motorists for safety and courtesy. I suggest that any sceptics watch a major London road junction for a

few minutes. I do not approve of lawbreaking by motorists or cyclists. Lawbreaking by cyclists sets back rather than advances the cyclists' cause. But it takes no more than a few moments' observation to see which is more common and which is the greater hazard. EDWIN KILBY Reed, Hertfordshire

Sir: I heartily agree with John Lewis (letter, 14 May) regarding cycling on footpaths being the result of laziness My local Lib Dem council has

just spent a fortune carving up the Teddington roads to provide cycle paths. Whilst this has caused me, as à driver, great inconvenience due to the bizarrely laid out new road plan, it has certainly helped me, as a cyclist, feel slightly more secure. However, I am frustrated and angry, when, as a pedestrian, I have to dive for cover as cyclists persist in racing along the pavements.

On two separate occasions in the past week I have been physically hit by cyclists who blatantly ignore the carefully painted cycle paths and still insist on using the pavements.

"Pavement rage" will undoubtedly be the new scourge of society and yes, it will be initiated by me. JO HEPPELL Teddington,

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edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

Middlesex

Anorexics are ragingly hungry

Sir: A thought for those who are looking at the link between serotonin and satiation in anorexic people (report, 12 May). Over 20 years ago I lied and lied that I was full and could eat no more. I was so screamingly hungry I could only sleep four hours a night. I read books and made things to keep my mind and hands off food - it was a very busy and productive time - but I was ragingly hungry.

My younger sister also had a go at self-inflicted starvation and denied that she needed food. One day, before she took to falling over, she passed a pet shop. The smell of dog biscuits full of the nutrients her body craved was irresistible to her starving body. I don't know if some anorexics genuinely feel satiated. I do know that some are liars. M ANI HARRIS New Mills, Derbyshire

Solar power for Britain's homes

Sir: Congratulations to the Centre of Alternative Technology for installing Britain's largest solar

roof (report, 12 May).
Unfortunately these solar events are a rarity in Britain. While other industrialised nations, notably Japan and America, are undertaking or planning massive national programmes which will see hundreds and thousands of homes

powered by this new clean tech-nology, in Britain we have just two solar-powered homes.

Historic lack of support from previous governments is the cause. Britain has a strong solar industry, currently producing 10 per cent of the £500m global market. With new government support from the new Labour government our solar industry could be stronger. Greenpeace is challenging the

Government to commit to a minimum solar programme for Britain of 50,000 solar homes by 2010. This can be financed by diverting existing subsidies to the fossil fuel industry to finance the solar programme. This action would catalyse a £100m investment from the British solar industry, create new solar factories for Britain and produce 40,000 new jobs. In opposition the Labour Party promised action on solar power, now they have the power to kick-start a world-class solar industry to help tackle the problem of climate change. MARCUS RAND Greenpeace London N1

Animals excluded Tory mutineers

Sir. In reviewing the good causes deserving of lottery money, I wonder if Gordon Brown will consider charities devoted to animal welfare, at the moment excluded.

I have found that many people are unaware of this fact and when brought to their attention consider it unfair. Many of these charities have suffered badly from reductions in donations since the lottery was begun.
JANE SPOTTISWOODE Bala, Wales

Turing and the artificial mind

Sir: Michael Lockwood ("Man v Machine", 13 May), like so many others, has overrated the Turing test. The Turing test is not some goal or benchmark artificial intelligence (AI) researchers are (or should be) shooting for. It is a thought experiment designed to ge us each to ask ourselves, "How do I know that anything other than myself experiences consciousness?" If we give each Other the benefit of the doubt, then

why not extend that to something that passes the Turing test?
Beyond that role the test is not important. If and when we first implement an algorithm on silicon that experiences consciousness, it is very unlikely that it would pass the Turing test. (After all, we wouldn't expect some species out of Star Trek

to pass the test either.) The more important lesson from Alan Turing is the separation of algorithm from bardware. While the brain is very different from integrated circuits, nobody (pace Roger Penrose) has been able to argue that it is different enough given the substrate neutrality of algorithms. The arguments for strong AI are compelling. Saying that there is a lot about consciousness and the brain that we don't understand yet is no counter argument - it is mere wishful thinking. JEFF GOLDBERG Cranfield Computer Centre Cranfield University

Remember the fall of Portillo

Sir: My heart goes out to Miles Kington who missed the fall of Portillo on election night ("So where were you when Portillo feil?", 12 May). Dare I confess that - thanks to the forethought of my husband - I have the happy event on video and have watched it almost nightly since 2 May? Who would have thought that schadenfreude could give one quite such a buzz? And would Miles Kington like the loan of it? BARBARA TRAPIDO

Sir: I shared Miles Kington's delight at the rolling of High Tory heads. Unlike him I did see the going down of Michael Portillo. I also caught the defeated candidate's speech and was pleasantly surprised by his humility, grace and sheer good manners.
It cannot have been easy for him. West Down, North Devon

Sir: Miles Kington proposes a roadside poster in the Lake District, saying "Last Tory Seat Before John O'Groats". Unfortunately he doesn't go quite far enough.
JIM WALLACE MP (Orkney and Shetland, Lib Dem) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: Anthony Bevins ("Is there a Tory future?", 14 May) suggests that John Major jumped ship, ratlike, before sinking. On the contrary, he visibly stayed until the ship was gone. Is the captain, even of a piratical, mutineering crew of cut-throats, required to go the full six fathoms to the bottom while the rest of his jolly band thrash around on the surface, bludgeoning each other with wreckage? SARA CLARKE Hìgh Peak, Derbyshire

It is only a scribblers' scribblers' parliament

A large number of our MPs may be writers of books, from thrillers to diaries, but, says **Boyd Tonkin**, there is not an original author, thinker or visionary among them

hen he wasn't scouring
London streets for
prostitutes to rescue,
William Ewart Gladstone took a break
from his prime ministerial duties by
reading three books a day and penning
learned tomes on Homer.

A century later, PMs and ministers usually do little more than sign the odd ghosted piece in the tabloids. The written word at book length appeals less to politicians now because it matters less to voters. In fact, some sort of nadir was touched when Lady Thatcher cheerfully let on that her idea of literary fun involved re-reading the cardboard-and-clockwork thrillers of Freddy Forsyth. When she came to compile her own memoirs, a team of backroom wags – such as Oxford's convivial Professor Norman Stone – had to add those alien touches known as "jokes".

So it comes as something of a shock to discover that several dozen MPs of the 1997 vintage still care enough about long-distance print to write and edit books. One of the new intake, indeed, has proved so prolific over the past 15 years that he now has a "Selected Writings" to his credit - a volume that embraces short stories, memories of childhood and political theory. That the name on the spine (from Brandon goes to show that heavy-duty authorship does not always confer infallibility. Even the ability to earn a good living between hard covers will not guarantee talent or trustworthiness. Rupert Alla-son, the defeated Torbay Tory who writes spy pothoilers as "Nigel West". often upset the secret services as he wrung every drop of fatuous gossip from his deep throats in MI5 and MI6.

The 1 May results closed the book on other Commons authors. Edwina Currie can now spend more time with her £300,000 advance as she moves from writing lubricous Westminster intrigues to soppy Scouse sagas. When the peo-ple of Chester dismissed Gyles Bran-dreth, they no doubt had other things on their mind apart from his recent début novel Who is Nick Saint? - a schmaltzy Yuletide fable that makes It's a Wonderful Life look like Oedipus Rex. Up in the Other Place, of course, Lord Archer need never fear the electors' judgement as he enjoys the reputed £15m that Rupert Murdoch's Harper-Collins paid him for the next few doorstops of lacklustre prose and jointhe-dots plotting.

Among Commons newcomers and returnees with authorial form, earnest policy wonks prevail. In his new ministerial role, Frank Field can draw on 20 years of published reflections on the function and malfunction of the welfare state, from To Him Who Hath in 1976 through to his Agenda for Briain in 1993. Field snaffles the plaudits from all sides, but his backbench colleague Malcolm Wicks, once head of the Family Policy Studies Centre, showed an equally incisive grasp of the welfare labyrinth in his 1987 Penguin special A Future for All.

Applied social studies may languish in the universities, but they flourish mightily on New Labour's crammed benches. Probably the most original take on the way we live now can be found in Patricia Hewitt's About Time, in which the new member for Leicester West tries to bridge the yawning gap between the actual rhythms of our lives and the anti-women – indeed, anti-human – time-schemes of the archaic institutions where we learn, work or

GO DU SANGER STREET

even legislate. With the theory behind her, now she can try the practical.

In keeping with the modernising waves of the past decade, this is all deeply sensible and sober stuff. It's a long time since Labour aspirants rushed into print with militant manifestos such as (say) the blood-curdling Red Paper on Scotland from 1975. And which Clydeside wrecker edited that? Laddie name of Gordon Brown.

Then come the swollen ranks of

Commons memoirists. (Though we should point out that Austin Mitchell's 1971 volume The Yorkshire Joke was not, in fact, an autobiography.) The heaviest ministerial apologias tend to weigh down bookshop shelves only after their authors have left the House (Norman Fowler's riveting recollections, by the way, sold around 3,000 hardback copies – even less than the average Tory vote on 1 May). So it's something of a rarity to find the boldest and funniest of all parliamentary tale-bearers – Alan Clark – back under the whip after his 1993 Diaries burnt every bridge and boat behind him.

Clark's leftist soul-brother, Ken Liv-... ingstone. offered a jovial canter through his life and thoughts in If voted changed anything, they'd abolish it. And the teadriven archive machine in Tony Benn's Holland Park basement churns out a every few years, with the help of his tireless editor Ruth Winstone. (Benn obliged his busier admirers with a onevolume abridgement in 1995.) A more waspish view of government at work comes from Gerald Kaufman's How to Be a Minister - droll advice that still reads well despite some antique beerand-sandwiches yarns about industry policy in the 1970s. (Kaufman wears his other hat - a star-spangled Hollywood buff's model - in his charming study for the BFI Film Classics series of the Garland/Minnelli musical, Meet Me in St Louis.) For first-hand tales of worse risks than a bad-tempered Sir Humphrey, one of the class of '97 trounces every rival: Tatton's stain-free Martin Bell, with his front-line chron-

icle In Harm's Way.

With Roy Jenkins well and truly ermined in the Lords, the Commons now lacks a serial political biographer. Several MPs, though, have managed one-off lives. Tam Dalyell profiled Dick Crossman to good effect some years ago. In his days as a full-time (rather than a weekend) journalist, Rotherham's MP Denis MacShane traced the

Ayes down: ten surprisingly good reads by current MPs:

Martin Bell In Harm's Way (1995) Gerry Adams Falls Memories (1982) Chris Mullin A Very British Coup

(1982)
Gerald Kaufman How to be a
Minister (1980; revised 1997)
Alan Clark The Donkeys (1961)
Alan Clark Dairies (1993)
Patricia Hewitt About Time (1993)
Tony Benn The Benn Diaries
1940-1990 (1995)
Peter Hain The Peking
Connection (1995)
Gordon Brown and Tony Wright

(eds) Values, Visions and Voices

Patricia Hewitt Your Rights at Work (1978)

Tony Benn The Regeneration of Britain (1964)

John Redwood Value-for-Money Audits (1981)

Brian Sedgemore Pritiess Pursu (1994)

Tyke (1988)

"political odyssey" of François Mitterrand in 1981 with an optimism not quite borne out by subsequent events. More recently, Huddersfield's Barry Sheerman co-authored an impressive biography of Harold Laski, the intellectual engineer who helped to design the 1945 Labour landshide.

istory itself has also fallen from the favour of literate MPs since The days when Lord Acton (before he decided that all power corrupts) sat behind Gladstone as an Irish Whig. But it still has a few elected practitioners. Before he declined into satellite chat-shows, a young political scien-tist called Austin Mitchell analysed The Whigs in Opposition 1815-1830. And, when John Redwood inhabited the distant planet of All Souls, he investigated belief and unbelief in Restoration culture under the title Reason, Ridicule and Religion. The versatile Denis MacShane converted his doctoral thesis into a challenging study of International Labour and the Origins of the Cold War. However, the garland of Best Historian MP must fall on the unfairly advantaged shoulders of the Best Diarist. Alan Clark's four elegant volumes on cam-paigns of the First and Second World Wars (*The Donkeys, Barbarossa, Aces* High and The Fall of Crete) prove that his economical way with the actualité does not apply to the past.

Chris Mullin How to Select or Reselect your MP (1981)

Since 1979, scribbling MPs have tried in large numbers to re-define their party's "project" as the Tories triumphed and Labour re-grouped. On the left, Austin Mitchell promptly asked Can

No-Noes: ten tomes that

their authors might

Peter Lilley Do You Sincerely

Want to Win? (1972) Gordon Brown (ed) The Red Paper on Scotland (1975)

Austin Mitchell New Zealand

Austin Mitchell Teach Thissen

Politics in Action (1962)

Peter Hain Political Strikes (1986)

prefer to forget:

and large, he found it. Peter Hain made the revisionist case sound radical in Ayes to the Left as Tony Wright brought his academic background to bear on Socialisms, Theories and Practices. Most effectively, Peter Mandelson (with Roger Liddle) famously wrote his own job description in The Blair Revolution, to emerge barely a year later as the Minister Without Limits.

In the blue corner, David "Two-Brains" Willetts made the case for Modern Conservatism while – when all broady scened lost. Alan Duncan

Labour Win Again? in 1979. Later,

Power - and events have shown that, by

already seemed lost ~ Alan Duncan could still excoriate the state in a High Thatcherite vein with Satum's Children. The lady's high noon saw John Redwood bang the privatisation drum in Popular Capitalism. Given voters' reactions to that nostrum as applied to taps. trains and tubes, the next edition's title should surely be prefixed with an "Un". Most intriguing among the writing

should surely be prefixed with an "Un".

Most intriguing among the writing members are the handful of parliamentary novelists. Fiction failed to save Currie and Brandreth, but the electors of Shoreditch evidently do not hold Brian Sedgemore's trio of political

romps against him (Mr Secretary of State, Power Failure, Pitiless Pursuit). Sunderland's Chris Mullin imagined A Very British Coup at a time when left-wingers such as him sincerely believed that he secret state would never allow such a thing as a 179-seat Labour majority to happen again. Yet it stands up well as fiction (and looked great on TV). However, the Government will not be hoping for a swift re-run of Mullin's 1981 pamphlet "How to Select or Reselect your MP". Mullin later used the political thriller to explore his Asian interests in The Year of the Fire Monkey; and Peter Hain hitched a ride on this post-Graham Greene bandwagon with The Peking Connection.

Tone of these tales is less than competent, although Douglas Hurd in his pre-FO days wrote this brand of thriller rather better. They certainly leave Disraeli's mantle as statesman-novelist unoccupied. The current batch of MP-novelists can spin a diverting yarn around politics at home or abroad, but their skill or sympathy does not seem to stretch much further. And that, of course, sunts up the limits of our system as a whole. Politics in Britain can turn out effective historians, diarists and even theorists by the score. But literary talent as such fails to thrive in the House.

That absence marks a more general estrangement of Westminster from the creative arts. In this climate, a figure of world-class distinction such as Glenda Jackson has to play down her achievements in order to get ahead. Yet the arts have contributed almost everything to the feel-good factor in British culture now, which besuited plodders of all parties are so keen to exploit.

Will things change? The omens do not look that promising. One of Labour's noisiest first steps has been to channel proceeds from the mid-week lottery away from the arts and into keep-fit classes: a "populist" measure that shows some contempt for the old left-liberal mission to make the best cul-ture popular. The House still gives a safe, congenial home to analysts and reporters of all types - the kind of mind that synthesises and interprets, rather than creates anew. Bards, visionaries and artists had better stay away. A slogan on Parisian walls in 1968 demanded "All power to the imagination". Not here, not now, and probably not ever. The writer is Literary Editor of The

> station and a rail station? Professor Wordsmith writes:

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THE FIVE-SECTION INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY. IT IS ... ARE YOU?

Those tricky questions answered at last

have an expert on the vagaries of language these days, and this column is proud to offer the services of Professor Wordsmith, who on his day – and when sober – is equal to the challenge of any enquiry about vocabulary or grammar. He is back again today to field the fiercest problem you can throw at

him. All yours, Professor!

I have noticed that when people stan reading a magazine these days, they first shake it automatically to get rid of all the inserts and free offers lingering in its pages. Has anyone coined a word for this period?

Has anyone coined a word for this activity?
Professor Wordsmith writes: I don't think so. I may be wrong, of course.
I have noticed a new trend which seems so far not to have attracted a new name. For many years pubs and cafés have been in the habit of

many years pubs and cafés have been in the habit of putting a blackboard outside with the dishes of the day chalked on it, or perhaps details of a forthcoming pub quiz night. The chalk often wears off or is removed by rain, and perhaps for this reason people have now taken to writing or even painting the

message on the blackboard in coloured script which is designed to make it look as if it is actually chalked on. Nobody has ever mentioned this trend – a trend which I find rather regrettable, as I like the old chalked messages – presumably because they do not know the name for this process of painting in the style of chalking. Is there in fact such a word?

Professor Wordsmith writes:

Not so far as I know. You would think by now that pronunciation of words in modern English would be standardised, but I still come across words which can be pronounced in two different ways, both of which seem to be correct. For instance, you hear the word "macho pronounced "match-o", which is obviously correct as it is a Spanish word and that is the Spanish way of saying it, but so many people say the incorrect "makko" that it is fast becoming an accepted alternative. Again, I have noticed that although I pronounce "clematis" with a stress on the first syllable. CLEMatis, many of my

friends prefer to say clemATis. which you might write down



Miles Kington

as "clem-eight-is". Even wellknown names seem to vary. I have heard Angus Deayton's name pronounced both as Deeton and as Dayton. But which is correct? Professor Wordsmith writes: I am sorry. Who is Angus

Deayton?
Every time the matter of devolution comes up, we hear a reference to the West Lothian question. But what is the West Lothian question?
Professor Wordsmith writes: I have no idea. Unless the question is simply, "Where is West Lothian?"

Ah. So where IS West Lothian? Professor Wordsmith writes:

I am not entirely sure.

The West Lothian Question is always mentioned as if it applied to all forms of devolution. But surely there must be a specifically Welsh version of this. I mean, it must be demeuning for the Welsh to have to make do with the West Lothian Question. Do the Welsh not have a Question of their own?

Professor Wordsmith writes:

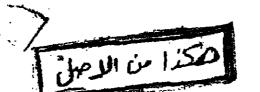
I am sure they do. But what it is I have no idea. I have recently noticed in several railway stations a poster urging businesses to advertise on station sites, and the poster uses this intriguing slogan: "A 7-minute dwell time at rail stations means more

effective advertising ..."
Now. "dwell time" is a completely new expression to me. I can see roughly what it means. But does it mean that today's train passenger is known to wait an average of seven minutes for his train. OR that the average train waits for seven minutes when it arrives, before departing? And what, by the way, is the difference between a railway

Your guess is as good as mine. When it comes to naming the date before and after Christ's birth, there seems to be no consistency at all. We in Britain say AD (Anno Domini) for after and BC (Before Clinist) for before - in other words, we use one Latin and one English expression. The talians sick to Italian and say
"ante Christo" and "dopo
Christo", which abbreviates
slightly unfortunately to
ACIDC. The French do not have an abbreviation at all. Well, they write "av J-C" and "ap J-C", but this is only a written abbreviation, as when they say it they say "avant Jesus-Christ" in full. Only the Germans seem to be logical, as they stick to Latin for both. and say "Anno Domini" and "Ante Christum", though this latter again abbrevious slightly clumsily to "A Ch". Do you think Brussels will manage to sort out this minefield before the millennium, and that as well as a single currency we will join a single year-measure? Professor Wordsmith writes:

All things are possible.

Keep those questions for
Professor Wordsmith rolling in:



There may be no profit in human rights

...but demands for ethical auditing will not go away, says Jack O'Sullivan

hell is probably one of world's most enlightened multination-als. Its PR people proudly Robin Cook let his scruples mean the champion a recent award from the Financial Times for "Europe's most respected firm". But that's not the image most people have. The public remembers Sheil for trying to dump the Brent Spar oil platform in the north Atlantic. And we know the company still profits from oil production in Nigeria, long after the exe-cution of Ken Saro-Wiwa who accused the company of colluding in the alleged environmental destruction of oil-rich Ogoniland.

Yesterday's row at Shell's AGM just makes matters worse. Shell's top brass fought off demands from a minority of shareholders that its business practices should be examined from now on by outsiders. Such lack of openness leaves a nasty smell - if that seems to change according to the this company is so clean, how come we can't look inside Planet Shell? But is all this fair criticism? Last

vear the company, wounded by criticism, called in Integrity Works, a business ethics consultancy, to help clean itself up. After a year-long study, involving hundreds of senior managers and enough energy to reverse an oil tanker, Shell agreed in a new mission statement to "respect human rights". Each Shell company must now sign a letter annually saying how it will

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achieve this goal in the local context. For Shell this is big news, given that business normally leaves morality to the clergy. John Drummond of Integrity Works recalls one manager's shock at his new role. "He said that he sometimes feels like he s in a Western movie. He's just walked into town and someone has given him the sheriff's badge, telling him to round up a posse to catch the bad guys. Then, immediately after the gun fight, they want the star back because they don't trust him with it. In other words, he is getting all sorts of con-

tradictory signals from the public." Shell seems genuinely serious about morality - just as Labour sounds serious about putting "good" back into Britain's foreign policy. Following Robin Cook's commitment this week to setting a high moral tone for relations with other countries, the are moving in the same direction. But like Mr Cook, the company can't quite understand why we're unimpressed; why, at yesterday's AGM, loud voices called for more.

Business people and politicians still do not see that people have grown so cynical that high-minded principles are

loss of jobs in the arms industry? Answer unclear. Will he take sanctions against companies that use child slave labour? Answer equivocal. Will Shell let outsiders check out whether the company has really been keeping its promises to honour human rights? No. There's the crux of the problem. If you can't prove what you say, people won't

It is easy to understand why Shell prefers to operate in private. The alternative invites catastrophe. Who could Shell trust to sit in judgement on its operations? Greenpeace, which got its data so wrong over the Brent Spar that it cost Shell millions in lost sales at the petrol pumps? And who is entitled to define human rights, a fluid notion

culture and country you are in? No company boss wants to find his organisation rated in an ethical league table. The discerning chief executive need look no further than

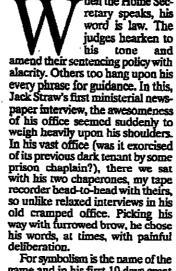
the experience of the Body Shop to get the jitters. Anita Roddick's company, so careful in its ethical practices, has nonetheless been subject to minute and damaging scrutiny in the media. After that, which company director, aware of his own venality, would let a bunch of do-gooders

loose on the company records? Shell executives know all of this. They take comfort in their oftrepeated mantra that it has taken 500 years to agree the accountancy rules for external financial auditing. It is bound to take a long time to agree upon the ground rules for such modern concepts as "environmental and ethical auditing". Better, then, to wait a while - certainly until those individuals are well into retirement.

But they are mistaken. The world will not wait until ethical anditing has developed into the fine art practised by financial auditors. Next year, the clamour for outside inspection will grow a little louder and unless solid proof is forthcoming, human rights pledges will ring more hollow. Com-panies such as Shell will have to agree criteria quickly about who will judge more sophisticated, less easily duped by ill-informed pressure groups. But, after yesterday, the danger remains that when the next scandal breaks, Shell's reputation will still be prey to any organisation - tinpot or reputable - that can steal the headlines

Talk tough, but carry a small stick

by Polly Toynbee



game and in his first 10 days great symbols have indeed rung out from his office. First, he declared the most radical constitutional reform of our era - the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law: citizens will now have a fundamental check on parliamentary autocracy. Then he announced he would take full responsibility for the prisons -no more Howard-like ducking and weaving about what is policy and what is operational. He announced a new specific crime of racial harassment. He froze all the asylum deportations that were being rushed through and, a good small symbol this, he let the Nepalese adopted son of a millionaire stay.

Not bad. But it will not be enough to satisfy the most idealistic of the many reform lobbies. "Please," said one to me before this interview, "tell him to be nice. The war with Howard is over and he has won it, devastatingly. He doesn't need to speak about punishment all the time. It's time to move on." I convey the message, and Straw grins: "We'll see." And they should wait and see before they rush to judgement. For he will still talk the tough language of punishment, because he means it. But his plans for the criminal justice system, already worked out in the fine detail, are equally about prevention

We begin with crisis in the pris-ons. A week before the election, prison numbers topped 60,000, the highest ever: overcrowding has demolished every good initiative to treat, train or rehabilitate. Will he do what Douglas Hurd did in the releases? Will there be a Straw offenders at the tail end of short sentences? On those criteria, 6,000 could now be released, saving some Straw says his first nasty shock

was to find that prison numbers were rising far faster than the projections Howard had announced. by both sides of the House." But

sentences work!



Home Secretary Jack Straw gives his first newspaper interview

So he picks his words with extreme care: "I don't think getting the prison population down in the short term is even remotely possible. It's about containing the rise while maintaining public safety." How will he do that? First he will reduce the 20 per cent of prisoners who are on remand, by cutting court delays with mandatory timelimits, as in Scotland. Then he will get the Court of Appeal to set sentencing guidelines: "Crown Court judges are using far more custodial sentences than they did, and they lack any collective memory of the crucial decisions they make. Published sentencing guidelines will allow public discussion and understanding of the system." Next, with extra deliberation, these words: "For many non-violent offenders, it would be more sensible to pun-ish them in the community." That is what the judges and magistrates need to hear. When Howard bellowed "Prison works!" they jumped to it - so now hear this: community

But what about Hurd's executive public opinion with him. He did it at a time of rapidly rising crime and the public thought he had no serious crime-prevention policy." The pressure on judges to give longer sentences sprang, he concedes, "from the political climate created

now he wants to build public confidence in community sentences. "The language we use to describe it matters. We must use the language of punishment. If we only talk of diversion from prison and excuses for criminals, then public demand for prison will continue."

He points to the disastrous statistics of the last few years - crime up by 50 per cent, convictions down by 50 per cent, yet prisons are 50 per cent fuller. Catching people and sentencing them to punishment is what matters most, he says. "Sanctions do work, but you have to build public confidence that punishment also happens in the community."

mongst cartoonists, Straw is already the children's bogeyman-putting them in chain gangs, sending them to bed early, the beak with the cane straight out of Beano. Nipping young criminals in the bud is his big idea, the thing he cares about most passionately - but it will be a fiendishly difficult project, embrac-

ing every aspect of a child's life. beefed-up Young Offender Teams in every area. On first offence, a child will get a final stern warning. administered by the police. They will be made to write a letter of apology to the victim or to apologise to the victim in person: "The youth justice system is stuck in a flow back into the project? Straw

culture of excuse and they don't think anyone is a victim but themselves." On a second offence, the new fast track means strict legal time limits on handling cases: "No more delays waiting for case conferences, stuck in treacle, kids' futures left in pending trays in social services departments." He says £1bn a year is spent on a useless legal processing of young criminals, with an average of three adjournments per case, and then nothing happens. There will be no more conditional discharges, but fines and reparation orders, mak-

ing them pay for their crimes. That is the punishment bit, the easy part. But then come the magic and expensive words "intensive supervision". "We will ask what the kid does all day, if they're out late at night, or not at school," and they will be served Action Plan Orders. Can Straw make an Order easily written on paper into a reality in a child's life, with effective and constructive supervision?

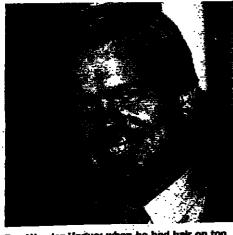
catastrophic families, beyond reach of school or courts. But it will be hard to deliver, for it crosses lines from probation to social services. schools and police. It crosses budgets too. Can he be sure savings on the Lord Chancellor's costs will

time warp. Youngsters inhabit a rightly identifies vast sums awash and wasted in the system, from courtroom to prison, but it will not be easy to get his hands on it. And forcing departments to work together on the ground will be the ultimate test of Cardinal Richelieu Mandelson's brief to make such inter-departmental schemes

happen.
What kind of Home Secretary will Jack Straw be? Pragmatic, certainly, but no cynical crowdpleaser. His pragmatism ensures a cool assessment of what really works, based on hard evidence, the programmes that genuinely reduce re-offending both in and out of prison. Some liberal nerve-endings will twitch, because he does believe in punishment. But he has lived with the loathing of liberals for a while now. Taking public opinion along with him matters rather more, as he knows he can do little without it.

This job tests character, sometimes to destruction, with its multructive supervision? titude of explosive liabilities – Few doubt that someone police, immigration, terrorism, urgently needs to get a grip on out- prisons and much more. That instinct is often as important as his well-laid plans. Which way will he jump in a crisis? Judging by his first symbolic

acts, inspecting what he really wants to achieve. I suspect his instincts are largely all in the



Boy Wonder Hague: when he had hair on top

eafing through my back copies of Isis, the Oxford University students' magazine, I noticed a prescient piece of writing from October 1981. It's the "Isis Idol" column, a slot that was once reserved for the chic, the witty, the bold, the talented or the glamorously doomed. Once, people like Kenneth Tynan were Isis Idols. In October 1981, it was the turn of William Hague.

The precocious-but-wizened Hague, currently favourite to lead the Tory party to electoral glory at some unspecified future date, was of course already known to Conservative futurologists when he went up to Oxford, because of his broken-voiced intervention at a Tory party conference when he was still a teenager. But the Isis article - by "David Taylor" later to metamorphose as D J Taylor, the critic, novelist and biographer of Thackeray - offers a fascinating snapshot of William the Young Pretender, a leading light of the university's Conservative Association, laying out their manifesto from his rooms at Magdalen (where a book called The Pursuit of Fower has pride of place on his shelves) and adiating ordinariness, reasonableness and matience - a commonplace young-politicianthe making. Undisturbed by liberal and reform-minded factions. "William shakes his head, gives them his brisk homily on party loyalty, snug in the knowledge that in the end there will still be a Tory party, whatever the bribulations of its dog days, and a nook in it for dichards like himself. How times have hanged, not. "Hague is inexorable," Taylor concludes in awestruck tones. "Who knows What he will or will not do?" One thing he trient do, however, is suggested by an unusual revelation: that Hague once secretly tapesecorded the dinner conversation of an executive member of the Conservative

If you bug someone's conversations it seems rather pointless to tell them about it later

john walsh

Association whom he suspected of disloyalty. But even this Nixonesque manoeuvre seems to have shown the Boy Wonder in a good light. "If you are going to bug someone's conversations," says Taylor acidly, " ... it seems rather pointless to tell them about it afterwards."

trolling last weekend through Menton, the Eastbourne of the Côte d'Azure, I was pulled up short by an advertisement in the window of a chemist's shop. Above a picture of a shagged-outlooking girl student in Brainy Specs, resting her head in her hands and surrounded by tottering piles of revision books, a headline reads "Cogitum - un médicament contre la fatigue intellectuelle." Only the French would have the execrable taste to borrow Descartes's most famous dictum from Le Discours de la Méthode - "Cogito, ergo sum" - and truncate the words into a name that sounds like a cure for diarrhoea ("Cogitum - for your dodgy tum"). But then only the French would allude so airily to "intellectinal fatigue" as if it were a condition like a pulled famistring. One tries to imagine Jean Bandrillard, after another gruelling afternoon speak tying to synthesise bollards, Marvel contact and The Rite of Spring into a single postulation of the Rite ringing up Bernard-Heart Levy or Marguerite Duras and saying, "Sacrebleu, I am intellectually knackerred. 'Ave you a blister pack of Cogitum I can borrow ... ?

A closer look at the girl student in the advertisement reveals an old time. The books that are piled up on giller side of her aching head are a ruin collection indeed. You'd almost imagine they dibeen hoicked off a shelf in someone's living room rather than found in a college library. There's a grimlooking business tome called Commercial Correspondence, a vast medical textbook, a coffee-table volume of photographs called Famille 2000, an Histoire d'Allemagne, a Penguin novel and another picture book called Making Miniature Lampshades ... Frankly, if they are expected to

revise for exams in literature, biology, sociology, business management and domestic handicraft. simultaneously and in two languages, it's no students turn out so odd.

President Clinton is a sufficiently know how to avoid political banana skins. So it seems a little foolish of him to have run splat into the biggest banana-shaped controversy of the modern world. This is not, you'll be amazed to hear, the unending dispute between Brussels and the British tabloid press about how only nine-inch bananas with freckles and zips on them will, henceforth, be deemed saleable in the European Union. This is the other banana dispute, out in the Caribbean. For many of the island countries, the squisby yellow phallus is as crucial to their economies as the humble potato once was to Irish subsistence farmers.

And now Mr Clinton is trying, through the World Trade Organisation, to block an agreement that guarantees Caribbean farmers a share of the EU market. "For many of our countries, bananas are to us what cars are to Detroit," said the Jamaican PM. And in the future, they suspect, Clinton is hoping that Europe will get more of its bananas from South America.

I mention this riveting piece of geopolitical finagling because the hapless, banano-centric Caribbeans have found a fan and a spokeswoman from an unusual source. Step forward, Glenys Kinnock, MEP for South Wales East and scourge of quota-busters

everywhere. In an as-yet-unpublished article, the wife of the former Labour leader hints darkly that President Clinton is in deep cahoots with the South American bananatrading Chiquita organisation; that in return for Clinton's recommending them to the World Trade Organisation, the Chiquita boss, Carl Linden, shovelled half a million dollars into Democrat campaign funds. In return for which, Mrs Kinnock suspiciously notes, "Linden subsequently had coffee with President Clinton and slept over in Lincoln's bedroom." I think that clinches it. She herself has recently been to the Windward Islands, she reveals, for a close, fact-finding look at the locals' plight. She even refers to the whole

bendy-fruit imbroglio as "Bananagate". Blimey. Should Glenys ever tire of the European Parliament, she has a fine future as an investigative journalist. In the meantime, I hope the citizens of South Wales East. not itself a conspicuously large banana-growing region, feel they are being appropriately represented by their glamorous MEP.

t's one of those tricky social minefields that no amount of etiquette books will help you out of. You are on the phone to someone and suddenly decide you want to go and do something else. But how to get them off the phone without seeming rude? Only an inspired excuse will do. So I must take my hat off to Harold Evans, former editor of The Times and The Sunday Times, now running Random House US and clearly a man of phenomenal social skills. A colleague of mine was on the phone to Evans earlier this week. Their conversation was terminated thus: "Sorry, I've got to ring off now. I've got Chris Reeve on the other line and he's, you know. on a life support machine ...'



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MIDLAND





Unemployment falls to lowest for seven years

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell sharply in April to the lowest for seven years. The drop of 59,400 took the total to 1.65 million, or 5.9 per cent of the labour force.

But the Government, which in opposition criticised the jobless figures as "fiddled", welcomed an announcement by the Office for National Statistics yesterday that it would review them. The recent sharp falls in the headline total have been exaggerated by the introduction of the Job

suggested wage pressures were not quite as severe as many economists feared. The rate of underlying average earnings growth was 4.5 per cent in March, the same as February's rate which was revised down by half a percentage point.

its Inflation Report earlier this week, that 4.5 per cent pay growth was barely compatible with hitting the inflation target in the longer term.

Economists agreed that yesterday's figures indicated the

Safeway to hire 8,000 more staff

Safeway, Britain's fourth-largest supermarket group, is to create 8,000 jobs over the next two years as it opens stores and extends customer service programmes. Most of the jobs will be in new stores, with Safeway nning to open 17 supermarkets this year, writes Nigel Cope. The total also includes 1,600

jobs in existing stores as the company expands its Queue-busters campaign and the Shop 'n' Go self-scanning scheme which is being extended from 117 to 165 stores this year. The anement comes two years after Safeway cut 4,000 jobs as part of its Safeway 2000 programme to improve efficiency.

Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive, said the introduction of a minimum wage would only affect the company if it was fixed at more than £3.80 an hour. which is Safeway's lowest rate. A minimum of £4 an hour Other figures yesterday

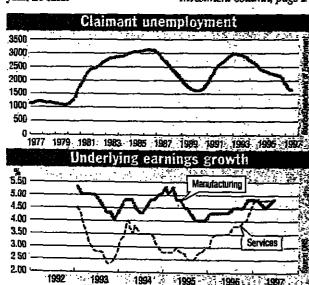
indicated, on the publication of

way reported full-year profits of £420m compared with £429m the previous year. Encouraging news on like-for-like sales,

current trading, boosted the shares 23.5p to 354p. The City had been braced for bad news after Safeway's profits warning in February and the cement of market share gains by Tesco and Sainsbury's. Safeway said its market share rose from 7.5 per cent to 7.8 per cent in the year.

Analysts said the addition of 1,600 customer service jobs was due to a loss of competitiveness in the fourth quarter of last year. City analysts were generally positive on Safeway's announcement. However, Frank Davidson of HSBC James Capel pointed to a weaker store portfolio and the perception of higher prices as issues that could hinder progress.

Investment column, page 24



sessment of the inflationary

James Barty, of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "With memployment continuing its rapid decline and the surveys beginning to show labour shortages, there is good reason to be concerned about the outlook for earnings." But John O'Sullivan at NatWest Markets said pay inflation was unlikely to rise above the 4.5 per cent threshold. Earnings, like other eco-

nomic statistics, reflect the diverging fortunes of manufacturing and services. The underlying growth rate in manufacturing has edged up from 4.5 per cent in March 1996 to 4.75 per cent, but the figure in services has climbed from 3.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent. Bonuses in sectors such as fi-

nancial services have been 30 per cent higher this year than last.

Claimant unemployment fell for both sexes, all ages, all regions and at all durations last month. The number of the unemployed aged under 25 fell to 421,700, their lowest proportion of the total on record. which were up 3.7 per cent in

Just over one-third of the total, 616,500, have been unem-

ployed for more than a year. The Employment Minister Andrew Smith said: "Unemployment is falling, but there are still far too many people with-out jobs and skills. We cannot accept unemployment at these

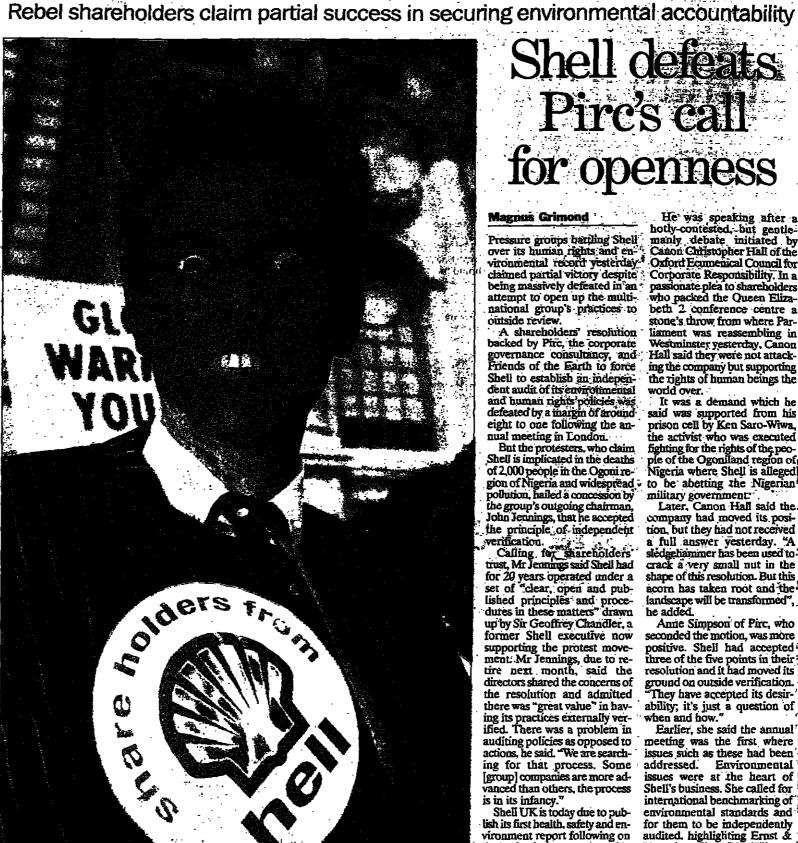
The Office for National Statistics said it was reviewing the unemployment statistics in the light of increasing interest in alternative measures. Last year ministers decided against introducing a monthly survey of unemployment because of the

The ONS will consult widely over whether it should in fact' be introduced, or whether to opt for a monthly figure derived from the existing quarterly survey, at a cost of about £250,000. Many experts would prefer the dearer alternative.

Directors said: "How important are the unemployment figures as a measure of the economy? If they are important, there is a good case for putting more money into them."

Separate figures in yesterday's batch showed that employment in manufacturing dipped by 3,000 in March. The level has been broadly flat for

about 15 months. The number of vacancies at JobCentres increased slightly to a new record of 275,600. The ratio of vacancies to unemployment, a favoured measure of tightness in the jobs market, is well above its 1989 peak. Economics column, page 26 | at Mercury Asset Management ecutive of SocGen's embryonic



Devil's advocate: Pressure groups at yesterday's agm forced Shell shareholders to run Photograph: Ben Schott the gauntlet outside the QEII Centre in Westminster

Shell defeats Pires eall for openness

Magnus Grimond

Pressure groups battling Shell over its human rights and environmental record yesterday claimed partial victory despite being massively defeated in an attempt to open up the multinational group's practices to outside review.

A shareholders' resolution backed by Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, and Friends of the Earth to force Shell to establish an independent audit of its environmental and human rights policies was defeated by a margin of around eight to one following the annual meeting in London.

But the protesters, who claim Shell is implicated in the deaths of 2,000 people in the Ogoni region of Nigeria and widespread pollution, hailed a concession by the group's outgoing chairman, John Jennings, that he accepted the principle of independent

verification.

Calling for shareholders trust, Mr Jennings said Shell had for 20 years operated under a set of "clear, open and pub-lished principles and procedures in these matters" drawn up by Sir Geoffrey Chandler, a former Shell executive now supporting the protest move-ment. Mr Jennings, due to re-tire next month, said the directors shared the concerns of the resolution and admitted there was "great value" in having its practices externally verified. There was a problem in auditing policies as opposed to actions, he said. We are searching for that process. Some [group] companies are more advanced than others, the process is in its infancy.'

Shell UK is today due to publish its first health, safety and en-vironment report following on the heels of a recent group-wide HSE report. Over the next two years every group company ally recognised standards in these areas, Mr Jennings said.

He was speaking after a hoth-contested, but gentle-manly debate initiated by Canon Christopher Hall of the Oxford Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility. In a passionate plea to shareholders who packed the Queen Eliza-beth 2 conference centre a stone's throw from where Parliament was reassembling in Westminster yesterday, Canon Hall said they were not attacking the company but supporting the rights of human beings the

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world over. It was a demand which he said was supported from his prison cell by Ken Saro-Wiwa, the activist who was executed fighting for the rights of the people of the Ogoniland region of Nigeria where Shell is alleged to be abetting the Nigerian

military government: Later, Canon Hall said the company had moved its position, but they had not received a full answer vesterday. "A sledgehammer has been used to crack a very small nut in the shape of this resolution. But this acorn has taken root and the landscape will be transformed",

Anne Simpson of Pirc. who seconded the motion, was more positive. Shell had accepted in three of the five points in their resolution and it had moved its ground on outside verification. They have accepted its desirability; it's just a question of when and how."

Earlier, she said the annual meeting was the first where issues such as these had been addressed. Environmental issues were at the heart of Shell's business. She called for international benchmarking of environmental standards and for them to be independently audited, highlighting Ernst & Young's audit at BP. "We are möving from a trúst me to a show me world" she said.

The wide-ranging debate also took in the price of petrol in the-

Superwoman' makes City comeback

Financial Editor

Superwoman is back. Nicola Horlick, the £1m-a-year mother-of-five fund manager who flounced out of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management in January, is almost certain to join a new London investment management house being set up by French giant Société Générale.

She will work with John Richards, the 36-year-old head of UK institutional investment

whose appointment was announced yesterday.

The appointment of Ms Horlick so soon after her high-profile departure from MGAM raised eyebrows in the City yesterday. The public spat between Ms Horlick and her previous employer was seen as extremely damaging to the rep-utation of the City and the

bank, but especially to her. Although the terms of her contract are still being discussed, Patrick Pagni, chief ex-

London operation, said vester-day: "Prospects are reasonably ciété Générale is the leading as-

favourable she will join." He said he had not been put off by the style of her departure from MGAM: "We are confident she will not put off potential fund managers or potential clients. She is a highrespectable woman.

Mr Pagni said Mr Richards. one of the most senior managers at MAM, had been given a brief to build up a meaningful presence in London for SocGen, where it has no fund manage-

set management business with about 10 per cent of the mainly bond-driven institutional in-

vestment market. Philippe Collas, chairman and chief executive of SGAM, said: "The asset management market has seen unprecedented growth in the 1990s. We look forward to building a team with the skills and experience to develop a major asset management presence for SocGen in

Spokesmen for MAM and Morgan Grenfell played down fears that SocGen was poised to poach its best fund managers.

The appointment of Mr Richards and Ms Horlick reunites the two 14 years after they started their City careers at MAM as graduate trainees. Equally successful, they have very different profiles after Ms Horlick was suspended then resigned from MGAM, accused of attempting to poach a team to defect to rival ABN Amro Hoare Govert.

Liddell reads riot act to insurance chiefs

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Helen Liddell, the new Treasury Minister, read the riot act to leaders of the UK's top insurance companies yesterday, threatening to "name and shame any that failed to offer swift compensation to victims of

the pension transfer scandal.
The Minister told executives of the 28 worst offending companies that continuing delays in offering redress to those who were mis-sold personal pensions were "completely unacceptable".

During a terse 20-minute meeting. Mrs Liddell added that continuing lack of com-

mitment on the part of insurance companies would result in far tougher regulations being introduced as part of the Government's planned reforms of the financial services industry.

Mrs Liddell, who was flanked during the meeting by Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, the frontline financial regulator, said she fully backed the PIA's latest deadline announced on Thesday for compensating vic-tims of the scandal.

But Mrs Liddell added that she expected most firms to settle their cases well before the new target for all urgent cases to be resolved by the end of De-cember 1998. ment firms have seriously underestimated the depth of public anger about this. It is the ordinary man or woman in the street who is being hurt by their foot-dragging.

"The Government is clear that this dilatory behaviour is unacceptable. It will not be tolerated. Let there be no misunderstanding. Failure to deliver them will have serious consequences for the industry." Mrs Liddell's unprecedented

dustry leaders follows growing anger among consumer organisations and trade unions at delays in dealing with the problem. The review follows a report

The Minister said: "Invest- in November 1994 from the Securities and Investments Board, the City's leading regulator, which said up to 1.5 million people may have been mis-sold a personal pension.

Of these, the SIB said, some 500,000 were urgent cases because those affected were already retired, close to it or were among categories most likely to have suffered heavy financial losses.

The Personal Investment Authority originally set a target of summoning of insurance in- December 1995 for the most urgent cases to be dealt with. But its regular pronouncements on pension compensation have been ignored by most compa-

Figures released on Tuesday by the PIA showed that barely 10 per cent of urgent cases had been dealt with and compensation offered to just 20,000 people. Some of the UK's bestknown insurers, which include Britannic and Royal Insurance. are among the slowest in of-

fering redress to clients. Mrs Liddell's intervention was yesterday being seen by senior regulatory sources as a sign that ministers had finally lost patience with insurance companies and with the PIA. An industry source said the name and



shame" policy was considered by Ms Bowe at the PIA last year Name and shame: Helen Liddell is losing patience - and then rejected, supposedly

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Sugen takes second shot at **UK** flotation

Sameena Ahmad

Sugen, the biotechnology company 20 per cent owned by Zeneca, plans to float on the stock market this summer val-ued at around \$150m (£92m). This is the group's second shot at a UK listing.

The California-based Sugen, which already has a quote on the US's Nasdaq exchange, deferred plans to float last year following a slump in UK biotechnology prices. However, recently revived confidence in the sector could herald a stream of biotech flotations over the next two years.

One flotation in the pipeline is Biovector Therapeutics, the French drug delivery company. It said yesterday it hoped to raise around \$50m in a flotation in the UK or on Europe's Easdaq market early next year, a move that would value the group at around \$150m. Biovector, which this mouth announced a tie-up with US group Biochem Pharma to develop an influenza vaccine, has appointed Dresdner Kleinwort Benson as advisers.

Sugen, which specialises in developing cancer drugs, does not plan to raise new money when it launches in the UK. Speaking at a biotechnology

conference hosted by Rothschild in London yesterday, Stephen Evans-Freke, Sugen's founder and chief executive, said: "Our share price in the US does not make fund-raising sensible at this point. "We want to reach a broad-"

vestors. We know many who are keen to take a position, but they are restricted at the moment. Mr Evans-Freke said Sugen now had a lower risk profile after successfully taking its most advanced drug for brain cancer into late-stage clinical trials.

er audience of European in-

"The time is right for us in the UK," he said. British-born Mr Evans-Freke, who owns 5 per cent of the company, moved to the US where he sold his first biotechnology start-up, Selectide, to the Marion Mercill Dow drug giant, and part of Hoechs, for \$58m in 1004 He founded in 1994. He founded Sugen in 1990. floating it on Nasdaq four years later.

After Zeneca, which invested \$33m for its 20 per cent share, Sugen's second-largest shareholder is Rothschild's venture capital arm, Biotechnology Investments, which owns 6 per cent. Jeremy Curnock Cook, a director of Biotechnology investments, took a seat on Sugen's board in January.

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al accountability

HE TENNY

Politicians should not get more power to meddle While it was in opposition, Labour was on the whole against the free wheeling deal-hungry ways of the City. Merger mania,

COMMENT it believed, was damaging employment and investment in the British economy. It therefore devised a plan to block hostile takeovers 'Lord Borrie is by reversing the burden of proof so that bidders would have to demonstrate that a reviewing competition

takeover was in the public interest.

But that was Old Labour and this is New. policy and may Now that it has the burden of office to carry recommend that the on its shoulders, Labour looks to be less keen on the idea. There was no mention public interest test yesterday of such a measure being in the Competition Bill when it is published this needs modification. autumn. If it is slipped in between now and By all means widen it

then, the Queen might have a case to answer under the Trade Descriptions Act. Nevertheless, the concept is clearly still knocking around and commands some support - not least from the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, who first proposed it. Just in case she should be tempted to dust it down at a later stage, here are a few reasons why it would be an

extremely dangerous measure.

First, and most objectionably, it would remove the ability of shareholders to decide whether their company was performing satisfactorily and conversely give far too much power and discretion to politicians and regulators. Freeing managers from the threat of unwanted takeover also frees them from the incentive to maximise

it is against the public interest - the present test - is not perfect but at least it is objectively based and, rightly, designed to catch those mergers which reduce competition.

Allowing a Secretary of State to decide the point at which a takeover actively promotes the public interest would give politicians carte blanche to meddle in the markets. Already they have too much discretion in determing competition policy. Few would want them to get more.

Second, the implication that only hostile mergers operate against the public interest is a fallacy. A merger is just as likely to be motivated by the self-interest of the two parties if it is agreed. Indeed, if anything, it is more likely to be a conspiracy against the public in these circumstances. If the burden of proof were reversed only for hostiles it would not in itself stop the agreed merger between Guinness and GrandMer. Just because Tony Greener and George Bull think it a good idea to get together does not automatically mean GMG Brands is in the public interest.

Third, such a measure would in any case miss the largest and most contentious mergers where there is greatest scope for abuse of the public interest, since these would still pass automatically to Brussels for

Blocking a takeover on the basis of whether is against the public interest - the present to include issues other than pure companies against the public interest - the present to include issues other than pure companies and all-informed pressure groups, are only to be applicable.

The event of poor or be applicable. petition concerns. But do not reverse it. That would be a disaster for Britain's competitiveness.

Pressure groups have their uses

Derhaps predictably, the much-hyped Shell annual general meeting turned out to be a bit of a damp squib, a rather tedious and long drawn out affair at which the various resolutions on the environment and human rights were overwhelmingly defeated by proxy. The pressure groups did not come away empty-handed, however, and they can genumely claim after yesterday's events that tactics of this sort work. Even Pirc concedes that three out of five of its demands have already been answered while the company is well on the way to addressing a fourth. Notwithstanding what Shell directors say, it seems unlikely this would have happened in

the absence of campaigning shareholders.
The affair has raised a number of broader corporate governance issues. In the City, and to some extent at Shell, it became seen as an issue of principle about the board's right would still pass automatically to Brussels for examination.

Lord Borrie is reviewing competition policy for Mrs Beckett at the moment and to manage. It is not the place of share-holders, the argument goes, to dictate to the board its policy on human rights and the environment, just as it is not the place of may recommend that the public interest test | shareholders to dictate to the board on

cavalier management, markets can properly exercise control either by clearing them out, or by depriving them of capital.

in the real world, however, nobody, even in the City, really believes in applying this rigid separation of ownership and management rights. Big institutional shareholders often become actively involved in management issues, if only by encouraging executives, sometimes through non-executives, to do certain things and discouraging them from others. The argument used by cam-paigners in this instance that there is a very good business case for applying the highest environmental and human rights standards is only a more broad-brush version of the

In truth, it is actually a thoroughly good thing for managements to be held to account for their actions over a wide range of differ-ent issues and practices. The chief executive of a large multinational possesses a form of absolute power which goes way beyond that of a government minister or official. Most of them exercise it responsibly, but it ill becomes these very highly paid people to complain about the usually legitimate concerns of campaigning pressure groups, or their increasingly effective attempts to hijack the ordinary rubber-stamping business of company meetings. Managements are unaccountable enough already. Attempts to make they spluttered. Memories are short.

Short memories in the City

It is little wonder the outside world believes Lthe City is an unreal, through-the-lookingglass sort of place. In the past three days the Square Mile has furnished its critics with two more stunning examples of the yawning chasm that exists between its air conditioned offices and the real world.

First, it emerged that senior executives at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell are poised to pick up breathtaking bonuses after a year in which the bank dropped a mighty £450m thanks to the Peter Young disaster. Even DMG admitted, with impressive understatement, that a rumoured £7.5m bonanza heading the way of chief executive Michael Dobson might give it "presentational difficulties".

Then Nicola Horlick, whose petulance on being suspended from Morgan Grenfell's investment arm in January left observers open-mouthed, walked into another high profile job at SocGen's London asset management start-up. As they dodged the toys flying out of her pram, conservative types in the City muttered that she had made herself unemployable. Unreliable, unbecoming,

C&W in no rush to lower Hongkong Telecom stake

Michael Harrison

to include other

be a disaster

issues but do not

reverse it. That would

Dick Brown, chief executive of Cable & Wireless, indicated yesterday that the company might be prepared to see its stake in Hongkong Telecom fall below 50 per cent as part of a deal with China when it takes control of the colony next month.

However, he said C&W remained in "the driving seat" in negotiations with the Chinese leadership, it was not facing a deadline to secure an agreement. reduced its 59 per cent shareinvolved a change of control.

Mr Brown also confirmed C&W was talking to three po-tential partners about a transatheld talks with USWest about its telephone business One2One. C&W owns the other half.

Asked whether C&W's talks with the Chinese were based on it retaining 51 per cent owner-ship, Mr Brown said: "I don't put so much stock on that. What we are looking at is how you enhance shareholder value."

Although C&W was in the driving seat it wanted to agree a partnership with the Chinese and was talking to a broad range of interested parties in China. "We are under no selfby 30 June and any deal which imposed time restraint. We don't feel compelled to be held holding would have to be at the market price or a premium if it endar, he said. Mr Brown was speaking as

C&W announced a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.4bn last year on record sales of £/bn. lautic tie-up in the US and it had, Hongkong Telecom contributed. £1bn in operating profits on 50 per cent stake in the mobile sales of £2.7bn. The profit in-

crease came despite a sharp rise in C&W's share of One2One's losses from £63m to £141m.

The growth in sales last year. came mainly from Hong Kong, North America and the Caribbean while operating profits from the UK, where C&W's main business is Mercury, jumped from £183m to £317m.

Mr Brown made it clear that. Hong Kong aside, his priority US. He confirmed that C&W was talking to Global One, the transatlantic alliance between the US long-distance carrier. Sprint, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom, as well as AT&T and Nynex. But he refused to be drawn on which one was the front runner to do a partnership deal.

The talks with USWest have covered the future of its half stake in One2One. The two

highly regrettable".

"with great interest".

Surveillance Commission

would monitor the investigation

the SESC asked prosecutors to

and the three executives for il-

sides are also thought to have touched on the possibility of USWest's UK cable operator, Telewest, joining Cable & Wireless Communications.

CWC, the £4.5bn venture between Mercury and three UK cable companies, Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron, is about to start rolling out a multi-million pound branding campaign to attract more cable was to conclude a deal in the television and telephony customers.

Mr Brown said he would be opposed to any deal between British Telecom and the Govemment which set BT free from the prohibition on broadcasting television. He said the cable industry "is still a bit fragile and can get snuffed out".

Mr Brown also said C&W would be prepared to see the Government give up its golden share in the company which pro-



Driving seat: Dick Brown has no deadline for agreement

The Government is under pressure to abandon its golden shares in BT and C&W in re-

tects it from foreign takeover. for the merger between BT and MCI. The merger cleared another regulatory hurdle yesterday when it was approved by the European Commission.

Home-owners 'pay too much'

Personal Finance Editor

the next 25 years because

lenders charge them for repay-

ments they have already made. according to figures issued yesterday by Yorkshire Bank. Almost 1 million people who

25-year period, the bank said. For an average £51,000 repayment loan on which interest than £13,500 in interest costs over 25 years. The overpayments are because most lenders offer mortgages on which in-terest is calculated in arrears each year. No account is taken of payments credited in the previous 12 months.

Chris Herbert, head of marketing and customer services at Yorkshire Bank, said: "Lenders Millions of mortgage borrowers which follow this practice alone will pay £73bn more in interest are effectively receiving a 12which follow this practice alone payments than they should over month interest-free loan each year from their customers and are really only acting in their own self-interest."

Yorkshire Bank, which is owned by National Australia Bank, has calculated the cost of took out a mortgage in 1996 a £50,000 repayment mortgage, may end up paying £13bn more than they should over the same unal interest while it deducts it on a daily basis. Whereas a standard repayment mortgage would take 25 years to pay off is charged each year, a home-owner would overpay more the loan, the same level of pay-ments with Yorkshire Bank would see the loan met in just over 20 years.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We explain to our borrowers exactly how interest is charged on the loans they take out and do not believe we are hiding anything from them.

Three ex-Nomura bosses held

Three former senior executives of Nomura Securities were arrested yesterday by Japanese authorities over alleged pay-offs to racketeers in an escalating scandal at Japan's and the world's biggest brokerage.

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Agents of the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office also searched the trio's homes for evidence that Nomura paid ¥49.7m (£252,000) to Ryuichi Koike, a "sokaiya" or gangster who blackmails companies by threatening to disrupt shareholders' meetings.

Two of the executives arrested were Shinpei Matsuki and Nobutaka Fujikura. Both were managing directors and, in terms of seniority, were only three steps down from the president's office.

The two men resigned in March, followed weeks later by taking this scandal.

affairs division.

of Hideo Sakamaki, former

Japan's Minister of Finance

Sakamaki - Nomura's presiistry would handle the Nomudent - and 14 other top executives. The mass resignation was unprecedented and was a sign ra incident "in a strict manner" when it received a report from of how seriously Nomura was the Securities and Exchange

The other executive arrested vesterday was Osamu Fujita, a former director in the general Agents from the PRosecutors

Office also searched the home

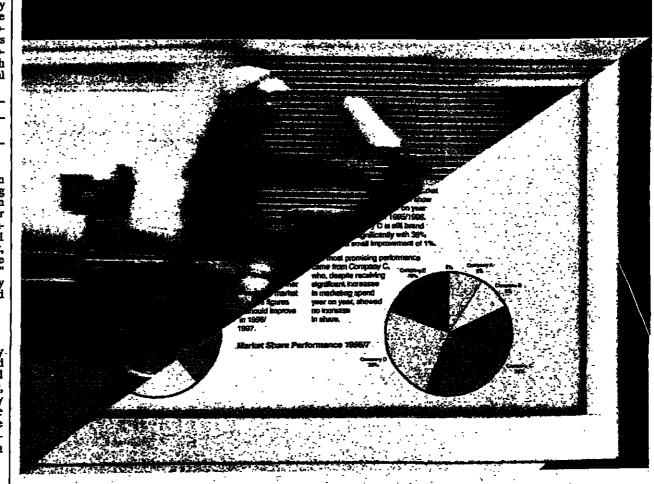
legally compensating Mr Koike for his trading losses. president of Nomura Securities. Mr Sakamaki was not arrested.

By charging Nomura as well Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said the aras the three men, the commission indicated it did not believe rest of the three executives was Nomura's claim that the exec-

Mr Mitsuzuka said his minutives acted on their own. The executives face up to a year in prison and fines of up to ¥1m. Nomura could be fined up to ¥100m.

Nomura has also been hit by (SESC). He added that he the decision to discontinue trading with it by several publicly owned Japanese banks The arrests came a day after and investment houses. "We obviously can't go on trading with file charges against Nomura a company that has a criminal charge against it," one said.

Motorbike despatch ISDN despatched



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Warning hits Merrydown

Ferocious competition in the alcopop market yesterday led to Merrydown, better known for its ciders, issuing a shock profits warning, sending its shares down from 95p to 75p - one of its lowest levels in 25 years. The company said that it

would soon announce a programme of cost-cutting that would almost certainly involve redundancies.

Paul Millman, managing di-rector, blamed a drop in sales of the company's Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade on a surge in the number of alcopop brands flooding on to the market.

Mr Millman said that profits for the financial year to the end of March would be "significantly below" analysts' expectations. He would not be drawn on the



150 staff.

The company is to "change the nature of the business", and refocus on its core cider prod-ucts, which, according to Mr Millman, have been performing well over the last few years. Sales of Two Dogs during the January to March quarter were

"disappointing".

Mr Millman said that distribution of Two Dogs had now been safeguarded by a contract with Scottish Courage. Scottish Courage will, with immediate effect, take on the marketing and distribution of the brand.

When we started Two Dogs in 1995, there was just us and Hooper's Hooch Jowned by

"Now there are some 90 brands. We don't have a massive sales force: we're a small company and Bass is a big one."
Mr Millman added that the deal with Scottish Courage – the UK's largest brewer - would give the company improved marketing muscle. He also believed that "some rationalisation" in the crowded alcopops sector would be likely.

Last July, Merrydown was riding on the crest of the alcopops wave, reporting sales up 58 per cent at £37.1m, and pre-tax profits of £2.03m for the year to the end of March. Analysts

IN BRIEF

Fed tipped to hold interest rates

Hopes were raised that the Federal Reserve may hold back from raising rates at its policy-setting meeting next Tuesday following news of a 0.6 per cent drop in the US Producer Price Index in April. It was the largest one-month drop in the PPI in almost four years. Even when the volatile food and energy sectors were taken and of the data, the complete food and the product of the data, the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the complete food and the product of the data the product of the data the product of the pr en out of the data, the so-called "core rate" was still down by 0.1 per cent. The news, which was far better than had been forecast, fuelled an early rally in bonds and stocks. "It's a very favourable number to the bonds and bonds are gatekeepers to the stocks," said Larry Wachtel of Prudential Securities. Opinion was sharply divided, however, on the likely next step of the Fed, which raised US rates by a quarter point at its last meeting.

Whisky union positive on job losses

GMB Scotland, the largest whisky union, is confident that any job losses arising from the £23bn merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan can be achieved through voluntary redundancy and natural wastage. Harry Donaldson, the union's chief negotiator, emerged from talks with Guinness' United Distillers yesterday saying he was also confident that the recently signed employee security deal would be honoured and run until April 1999. The union is seeking talks with Grand Metropolitan, whose IDV spirits division employs nearly 400 people in Scotland, mostly in a bottling plant in Dumbarton and four whisky distilleries.

Non-executive directors' fees rise by 20%

Non-executive directors have seen their fees increase between 15 and 20 per cent in the past two years, with the average totals ranging from £14,500 a year for companies with turnover of between £26m and £100m in £26,200 for companies with turnover of more than £20m, according to a survey for the Institute of Chartered Accounts' business board and PRO-NED, the organisation for the appropriate of non-tentument charteness. for the promotion of non-executives. Company chairmen, who overwhelmingly felt that the role of non-executives had become more demanding, expected fees to continue to rise at the rate of about 10 per cent a year.

VarityPerkins signs £18m engine deal

Lucas Varity's VarityPerkins subsidiary has signed a joint venture agreement with Tianjin Engine Works to manufacture more than 50,000 engines a year in China, with an initial investment of £18m. A plant in Tianjin will build Perkins' most widely sold engine ranges yesterday cut profits estimates — the four- and six-litre Phaser and 1000 Series. In the lon for 1996/97 to around £850,000. capacity is scheduled to grow to 120,000 engines a year. the four- and six-litre Phaser and 1000 Series. In the long term.

Safeway shows it is no basket case

tion in the supermarket battle ahead of yesterday's results. The shares had fallen by more than a pound since their January peak of 426p to just 315p earlier this week.

This was largely due to the profits warning in February when the group had drawn attention to a steady decline in both sales growth and food price

With both Tesco and Sainsbury posting market share gains and like-for-like sales increases since then, analysts were wondering whether these gains were at Safeway's expense. Yesterday's full-year results showed

this not to be the case. Profits of £420m were in line with admittedly reduced expectations, but, more importantly, like-for-like sales were up by 4.7 per cent in the year and by 3.7 per cent in the six weeks since the 29 March year-

Market share also edged up from 7.5 per cent to 7.8 per cent over the 12 months. The numbers pleased the City and the share price breathed a huge sigh of relief, jumping 23.5p to 354.5p.

Management proudly boasted that Safeway had reached its £15 sales per square foot target a year early and that it was increasing its share of higher-spending family shoppers which all the supermarkets are targeting. In addition, the proportion of customers who use Safeway for their main shop, as opposed to their secondary top-up option, rose from 23.6 per cent to 25 per cent

last year.

There were also encouraging signs on margins, which rose by 0.1 percentage points, and on further technological initiatives such as self-scanning. This is to be rolled out to 165 stores by the end of the current year.

Of course it should be remembered that on many measures Safeway is still lagging behind its rivals. Asda has pushed it from third to fourth in market share in the last two years. In sales per square foot, Safeway's £15 figure compares to £20.75 at Sainsbury £19.85 at Tesco and £16.40 at Asda.

And Sainsbury's and Tesco's proportion of primary shoppers is well over 30 per cent.

For historical reasons, Safeway has poorer locations with fewer large outof town-stores, while the perception lives on that its prices are more ex-

All this appears to counsel caution about the group's prospects. After all, there has long been an argument that the big four supermarkets cannot all prosper at once.

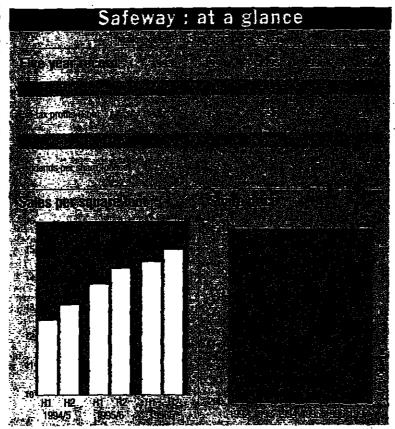
That, however, may no longer be true. There is growing evidence that it is the division two supermarkets such as Kwik Save, Iceland and the Co-op

Buy Now! Offer Ends 17th May

There was a good deal of nervousness about Safeway's position in the supermarket battle

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN on a lowly forward p/e of 10 on Bardays de Zoete Wedd's forecast of £310m profits for this year.

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND



ative sentiment before: they virtually doubled between 1994 and 1996. Since the warning, they are again looking oversold and could start to make progress. On forecast profits of around £440-£460m they trade on a forward rating of 12. Worth holding.

Imperial caught in a political wind

mperial Tobacco, Britain's secondbiggest cigarette group, is faced with a barrage of problems which would cause most companies to blanch.

Yesterday's announcement that the Government is set to outlaw tobacco advertising is a straw which gives a strong clue to the way the political wind is blowing. Tobacco duty, already raised 15p by the Tories in November, looks set to be a prime target of a Labour goverument seeking ways to raise money without increasing income tax in its forthcoming Budget.

And it is not just the UK where Imps faces political difficulties. The French government, facing stringent Maastricht criteria for European monetary union, hich are struggling. has attempted to protect its revenues Safeway's shares have bucked neg-

cutting prices to match Rothmans, whose cut-price brand has scooped 6 per cent of the market.

Given the difficult environment, it is testimony to the management that Imperial has produced a highly respeciable set of results for its first period since the demerger from the Hanson conglomerate in October. Pre-tax profits fell from £174m to £143m in the six months to March, but that was all to do with the need to pay a £40m interest bill to outside lenders for the first time. Underlying operating profits were actually up 5.2 per cent

The UK market, still Imperial's biggest, continues its gentle decline, with increased pressure on smokers to "downtrade" to cheaper brands. Although this hits the company's midmarket brands, such as Embassy and John Player Special, it boosts the value-for-money end of the sector where Imps, with its Lambert & Butler product, is relatively stronger than arch-rival Gallaher.

But the real hope for growth comes from overseas. Excluding the Rizla cigarette papers business acquired for £185m in January, non-UK profits rose £2m to £34m in the period.

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As well as politics, the shadow of litigation is starting to move across Imperial from the other side of the Atlantic. The shares are cheap, but progress from here is unpredictable. given the external factors, and choice in the sector is about to be expanded with Gallaher due to publish its flotation details tomorrow. Hold.

Airtours spreads wings abroad

this should be a sunny summer for Airtours, the UK's second-largest tour operator. With consumers spending building society windfalls in advance, the average Brit is spending more on bolidays and taking more of them. Airtours' 1997 UK summer bookings are ahead 29 per cent with winter bookings up by almost half. And there are no signs of the price wars that crippled the industry two years ago. Airtours' chairman, David Crossland, says the group held its UK market share at around 18 per cent last year. With fewer holidays on offer here, lastminute cut-price deals are scarce and are being offered at less breathtaking

With more breathing space at home, Airtours is wisely concentrating on expanding its empire overseas. Last year over half its £818m sales came from outside the UK compared with only a tiny proportion three years ago. Spreading its geographical wings has been an excellent strategy. With Airtours, Thompson and First Choice already accounting for over 60 per cent of the UK tour market, there is little more to do here. Not so in Airtours' newer territories. A big contributor to the group's dramatic 45 per cent re-duction in losses to £12.7m in the halfvear to March was a move to profit in Scandanavia as acquisitions were turned around.

Mr Crossland wants another country in Europe - Germany looks a possibility. The potential to grow in North America look even greater. Airtours is also diversifying fast

from bog-standard tour packages to time share and counter-seasonal businesses like cruises.

Analysis have upgraded full-year forecasts by around £5m to £120m, putting the group on a rating of around 17 times, with the shares up 30p at 974.5p, a chunky premium to the mar-ket. The near-tripling in the share price over 12 months has been on hopes that 29.6 per cent shareholder Carnival will swoop. That might happen when Mr Crossland retires, but at 49, he looks 2m to £34m in the period. as vital as ever. A good company, but The shares, up 2p at 403.5p, stand the shares are a hold.

Strong pound puts brake on profits at Commercial Union

Form Stevenso Financial Editor

Cut-throat underwriting competition, the strong pound and the resurgent housing market helped keep the lid on rising prof-its at Commercial Union in the first three months of the year. Subsidence claims, which always rise as the house market picks up and more surveys are carried out. jumped 11 per cent in the very dry first quarter, raising payouts to householders by a third.

That contributed to a detericration in the important UK underwriting result at CU, in contrast to General Accident, which earlier in the week surprised analysts with a small profit in the home general insurance division. Although CU said there were signs of improvement in motor policies, where rates have been under pressure for more than two years, premium income as a whole in the UK slipped 4 per

cent to £344m. The main drag on first quarter profits, however, was the sponsible for a quarter of all

profits rose £19m to £802m during the three months to March -using comparable rates the improvement would have been £32m, or 46 per cent.

Shares in all the composite in-surers fell yesterday after CU admitted to losing £32m on its UK underwring account, Han more than last year. Commer-cial Union closed 15.5p lower at 734p, while General Accident shed 13p to 944.5p. Royal Sim Alliance and GRE also eased.

Even after a much more benign winter in the US, the world-wide underwriting loss improved by only £28m from £99m to £71m. After lower investment returns from its upfront premium income, general insurance profits rose by only £3m to £67m. Other trends to emerge from

CU's general insurance result included a sharp fall in thefis from commercial property, with last year's surge in computer thefts coming to an end. Fewer cars were stolen but arson, re-

commercial fire claims, was significantly up on last year. The disappointing underwaining result confirmed the continuing difficulties plaguing the industry and left analysis puzzing over the sustainability of share prices, which are contently at a large prices, which are contently as a large premium to net assets.

Iraditionally the sector has

been rated at a discount to the underlying value of its assets to reflect the atherent cyclicality of insurance underwriting but all the majors are currently valued by the stock market at up to a third more than their NAVs. CU's net asset value rose 23p in the period to 568p.

John Carter, chief executive, said the acquisition of SEV, a French life assurer, in April, meant life operations accounted for half of total group premium income. He said that proportion would rise in the future.

Life profits increased over the quarter by £4m to £62m, also hit by exchange rate movements. Stripping out the impact of the rising pound, life profits were 25

Scottish Radio plans further expansion

Cathy Newman

Obtaining a second FM radio licence is high on the agenda for the rapidly-expanding Scottish Radio Holdings. James Gordon, chairman, said yesterday that Scottish may bid for Scot FM, or apply for the central Scotland licence, due to be advertised at the beginning of next year.

Mr Gordon, who also announced a 39 per cent surge in interim profits to £4.5m before tax, also said that group may even increase its 15 per cent stake in Radio Ireland, acquired last year.

This was just one of several expansion options that the company was contemplating to bolster its presence in local radio and newspapers, he

He confirmed the company would be looking for further acquisitions yesterday, as he announced pre-tax profits had increased by 39 per cent to £4.5m in the six months to The results were well-

received by investors and analysts. The shares climbed 17p to an all-time high of 414p, al-though the price slipped back later in the day and closed at

Mr Gordon said diversification into local press with the £11.2m purchase of the Morton Newspapers group in November 1995 had worked well. The

Review Press group in March this year is expected to contribute to the full year results Growth in local radio has also helped, with Downtown Radio, acquired last year, making a first-time contribution to group operating profits of £445,000.

Analysts have increased their profit projections for the full year. Jamie Matheson, at the Bell Lawrie White stockbroking firm, said he had increased his pre-tax profits forecast by £700.000 to £8.7m.

He added: "The results vindicate completely the decision to go into local press."

Earnings per share for the half-year improved by 24 per cent to 10.8p. The interim divacquisition of the Montrose idend rises by 20 per cent to 3p.

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IN BRIEF

Caradon caution unsettles shares

Investors in Caradon, the building products group, were unsettled after Anthony Hitchens, chairman, warned the annual meeting that trading in the early months of 1997 had shown "limited improvement". The news immediately knocked 10p off the company's share price to 224p. The share price eventually closed at 226.5p. The chairman added: "Last year's disposals, stronger sterling and the competitive doors and windows market in North America will affect profits in the first half." He said that in the UK there were many uncertainties in the group's markets, although the board expected an improvement in the second half. Continental European markets still remained difficult.

Centrica expands to Germany

Centrica has taken its first step in expanding its customer base outside the UK by signing a deal with Germany's Thyssengas for gas deliveries via the UK-Continent interconnector pipeline. The former trading arm of British Gas said that under the deal it would sell to Thyssengas up to 3 billion cubic metres of gas over a seven-year period. Deliveries should start in October next year when the interconnector pipeline is due to open.

Reckitt upbeat despite strong pound

Shares in Reckitt & Colman gained 8.5p to 897.5p immediately after Alan Darby, chairman, delivered an upbeat statement on trading at the household products group's annual meeting. The company's performance for the four months to date "remains robust", though the strength of sterling "remains an issue", he said, adding: " I am confident that the underlying momentum of 1996 will continue and the planned investments for brand development and growth will remain a priority."

£12m addition to Pemberstone portfolio

Pemberstone has agreed to buy a portfolio of tenanted residential dwellings for approximately £12m from Woolwich Assured Homes, part of Woolwich Building Society. The properties are mainly in the South-east, and contracts are expected to be exchanged within a month. Pemberstone also said its £4.83m offer for the outstanding shares in Serah announced last month went

L&G boosts business in Britain by 57%

Legal & General's sales of individual business products in the UK rose by 56.8 per cent in the first four months of 1997 compared to the equivalent period in 1996. Addressing the company's annual meeting, Sir Christopher Harding, chairman, said: "The impressive sales progress made last year has continued. This year has clearly started very well - to maintain this pace for the remainder of 1997 will be demanding. The company's election personal equity plans have raised nearly £200m, and total PEP sales in the first four months of the year – at just short of £400m - are more than triple last year's.

	Compar	ıy Resul	lts	
	Tereorer £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Airteurs (I)	818.4m (609.6m)	-12.7m (-22.9m)	-8.18p (-16.17p)	4.0p (3.25p)
Circle Comm (F)	8.1m (-)	713m (-)	3.83p (-)	1.0p (-)
cn (d)	2.38bn (2.47bn)	171m (98m)	15.5p (8.0p)	- ()
CSM (F)	7.0bn (8.17bn)	1.42bs (1.34bs)	30.3p (26.4p)	7,7p (10.0p)
El Oro Miniog (F)	- (-)	2.75m (1.96m)	43.28p (31,01p)	22.5p (21p)
Exploration Co (F)	- (-)	3.07m (2.33m)	18.22p (13.76p)	11.00 (10.50)
imperial Tobacco (I)	1,94bn (-)	143 (-)	18.60 (-)	7.2p (·)
On Descand lain	5.5m (5.68)	-2.29m (-1.28m)	-4.2p (-2.5)	nii (nii)
Sanderson Electronics (I)	33.4m (30.58m)	5.5m (3.3m)	5,9p (5.3p)	24p (-)
Saleteay (F)	6.59bn (6.07bn)	420.6m (429.4m	26.8p (26.4p)	9.7p (-)
Sage Group (I)	72.5m (71.84m)	19.29m(16.12m)	12.03p (9.92p)	0.97p (0.88p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	(N) - Mine months			

Mobile currency dents Sage profits

Sage Group, the accounting software company, became the latest victim of foreign exchange movements vesterday.

Currency fluctuations, particularly in the French franc. dollar and German mark, knocked £5.5m from the group's half-year sales and more than £1m from the pre-tax profit figure.

The currency impact forced Sage shares lower in early trading in spite of a 20 per cent increase in interim profits to £19.3m.

However, the shares later recovered to close 1.5p higher on the day at 654.5p. Profits in all main markets,

the UK, US and mainland Enrope, grew.

In France the removal of overlapping product ranges cost £2.5m in the first half while in the US operating profits rose by 16 per cent.

Sage expressed confidence that the £40m acquisition of

KHK, Germany's largest ven-

dor of accounting software, would prove beneficial with Sage working to improve mar-

On current trading, David Goldman, chairman, said the second half had started well and he expected the outcome for the full year to be satisfactory.

Group sales were 2 per cent higher at £73.6m in the six months to 31 March. The dividend was increased by 10 per cent to 0.97p.

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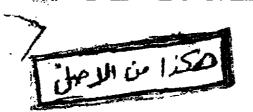
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SEAQ VOLUME .843,4m shares, 57,941 bargains Gilts Index





under way. Stories flowed around the stock market that the Kuwait certain session. Footsie was on Investment Office was hoping a roller coaster, climbing above to sell all, or part, of its remaining shares, a 9.3 per cent

of BP, was named as a possible buyer of some of the KIO

The Knwaitis once had around 30 per cent but were forced to reduce their holding. If they are planning a further sale they will benefit from a BP price near its all-time high.

The shares edged ahead 2p to 744.5p, so the KIO could expect to collect at least 720p a share, pricing its interest at around £3.8bn. Other oils were mainly firm with Cairn Energy enjoying the

benefit of an encouraging

Bangladesh presentation, up

A huge placing of British Petroleum shares is believed to be ahead 11p to 667.5p.

The rest of the market had, by recent standards, an un-4,700 points again. But for

the second day running it was Fidelity, the big US invest- alted level and by the close was ment house with 6.6 per cent down to 4,686.9. The modest decline ended a remarkable 11-session win-

ning streak which lifted the in-

dex more than 300.

Supporting shares were again downcast with the FTSE 250 index off 3.7. Uncertainty created by the falling 14p to 498.5p.

Abbey National ended 22.5p lower at 935p as the rumoured Queen's Speech took the shine from blue chips. The market, which has chased takeover candidates, was unsettled by proposed legislation to make life more difficult for hostile

bidders and plans for higher mobile telephone charges. Some of the long-running



MARKET REPORT

Kuwaitis set to reduce stake in British Petroleum

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

of their enthusiasm and mobile as results came in higher than phone groups were misrouted with Vodafone off 6.5p to 275p

and Orange 6.5p at 217. BT, despite conditional EU approval for its MCI deal, was lowered 3p to 449.5p because of its mobile connection. Cable & Wireless was another to feel the telephone pinch,

bid failed to materialise, producing the usual I-told-you-so chorus in certain quarters. Alliance & Leicester recovered 11p to 613p and National Westminster Bank improved

12p to 810.5p.

expected and Airtours climbed 30p to 974.5p on its 28.8 per cent jump in summer bookings.

British Airways flew 31p higher to 742.5p as a five-way international airline deal offered promising support that its proposed alliance with American Airlines will get the regulatory all-clear.

De La Rue, the security printer, fell 26.5p to 501p in response to the still-to-beconfirmed placing by Merrill Lynch and builder Taylor Woodrow dropped 7p to 204p after a late trade of 1.35 million shares at 200.5p was

printed. T&N, the vehicles compo-

nents group, gained 8.5p to 137p after a merger plan by the German Kolbenschmidt group Pan Andean Resources

where it has a 24 per cent stake. Medeva, the health group, rose 14.5p to 286p with ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Mer-

rill Lynch said to be positive. Building materials had an awkward time as Caradon warned of difficult European and US markets, clipping its shares 8p to 226.5p. On Thesday Roskel unseitled sentiment with a profits warning.

Essex Furniture, the retailer, helped its shares 12.5p to 82.5p by fixing a day - Friday next week - to announce its year's figures.

Merrydown, the alcopops and cider group, fell a sobering 15p to 75.5p as poor sales of its Two Dogs brand prompted a profit warning.

Datrontech, the computer group, fell 49.5p to 160p after a profit warning and more losses at On Demand Information.

It expects profits to advance to £2.3m this year and to £2.8m next.

Pan Andean Resources firmed to 34.5p after severing its links with BHP, the Aus-

tralian group, in Bolivia. It is looking for another partner; fears of a rights issue can be

John D Wood, the estate agent, gained 20p to 140p on the takeover approach and an offer for Circle Communications lifted the shares 7.5p

Clothing group SR Gent put on 4.5p to 59.5p as the bid talks, first disclosed in October, presumably drifted on. TJ Hughes, the retail department store chain, im-

proved 3p to 86p. Charterhouse Tilney increased its profits estimate and said the shares should

"materially outperform".

☐ Tuskar Resources firmed 0.25p to 6p. It has raised £4.75m by placing 95 million shares at 5p a share through Dublin stockbroker Davy. The cash will go towards developing the group's Nigerian offshore exploration interests and reducing debt. Once a high-flying Colombian ex-plorer, Tuskar's shares briefly touched 190p. Then when its oil find was uncommercial

Taking Stock

the price collapsed to 1p. It was "reborn" in October 1996 when a Houston group acquired control, moving operations to Nigeria.

☐ Network Technology held at 219p. Merrill Lynch is £2.4m to £5.7m this year and reach £8.3m next.

☐ Versalite, the coloured glass group, made a firm début, closing at 4p against a

age profi

The state of the s

Why spend these billions when unemployment is dwindling?

the Government's spin doc-tors have been promising that Gordon Brown's first Budget will mark the most radical shake-up of the welfare state for half-a-century. It will introduce a package designed to get the young and long-term unemployed into jobs along with other, still unspecified, welfare-to-work measures.

Yesterday's figures showing yet another big drop in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit raise the question of whether the Chancellor ought to bother spending £3bn on reducing the under-25s jobless total. With yesterday's figures showing their number making up only a quarter of the total, the lowest share on record. there will soon be few left to help. If the unemployment problem is well on the way to being sorted out because of policies introduced by the previous government, perhaps the money about to be raised by the

windfall tax could be better spent.
For example, in new research this
week, City economist Kevin Gardiner
at Morgan Stanley predicts that on
current trends Britain will be back at full employment, on any sensible definition, within a couple of years. The unemployment rate might fall below 5 per cent next year. If he is right, we will soon be worrying about skills shortages and wage pressure, not schemes for the jobless.

Unemployment no longer a prob-lem? This requires a pretty big mental adjustment, and it is not one the Government has made yet. But the headline figures are impressive: the claimant count stood at 1,651,400 last month. Another drop the same size as April's and it will be the lowest since September 1980.

This would be close to what most economists reckon to be the unemployment rate below which inflation would start to accelerate. The UK's "natural" rate of unemployment is thought to be around 5 per cent or 1.4 million, far higher than its level in the late 1960s but lower than in the early 1980s.

Of course, there is no doubt that the claimant count is a flawed measure of unemployment, re-



DianeCoyle

Some economists predict Britain will

be back at full employment in a couple of years. If so we need to worry about skill shortages and wage pressure, not schemes for the jobless

changes of definition. But critics exaggerate the flaws. It is not utterly misleading, having tracked the internationally accepted definition of unemployment in the quarterly Labour Force Survey. The claimant count is about 1 per cent lower than

this widely accepted measure. The downward trend in joblessness since 1992 has two explanations. The obvious one is the cyclical recovery in the economy. One of the merits of the flexible labour market is that employers have hired as quickly during the upturn as they laid off in the downturn. This is not so comforting, as there is nothing to prevent a swift rise in unemployment when the next recession hits.

But the other reason gives more cause for hope. It is the fact that the last government did make a start on reducing both the underlying trend

"non-accelerating inflation" unemployment rate. The controversial Job Seekers' Allowance formed part of this - and it is noticeable that the new Government shows no interest in abolishing the JSA. Expect it to

be quietly renamed and retained. It has been dramatically effective at shaking out people who are un-willing to carry on claiming benefit under the tough new terms. It's hard to escape the conclusion that many of them were claiming benefit when they had a job. The JSA represents the "hard cop" aspect of what econ-omists would describe as "active labour market policies" or detailed

measures to match people to jobs.

The evidence from the US, where some states opted for far tougher benefit regimes as long as five years ago, is that it works. Unemployment has fallen and, more importantly, the

proportion of working age adults who are employed has risen. The "soft cop" aspect - so far -has consisted of improvements to administration and routines at Job-Centres. For example, the computer software for benefit claimants has been upgraded and integrated with the system for vacancies. The time spent on initial interviews has doubled, resulting in better matching of people and potential jobs. Although they sound trivial, such changes have had a big impact.

The moral is that the unemploy-

ment total falls when people are either bullied or tempted into jobs they would not otherwise accept or bother to find out about. Many people who are out of work either do not know what is available or do not like the look of the available jobs. But it is almost impossible to move from unemployment - especially after any length of time - into a good job. You have to get on to the first rung before you can move up the ladder, and

those first-rung jobs are there.

The proposals Gordon Brown will introduce in the Budget, designed for the under-25s, are a slightly kinder and gentler - and more expensive - version of existing active labour market policies. They do not differ in essence from the Conservative measures. As for single mothers as its centrepiece.

in total unemployment and the Alan Howarth, the employment minister responsible for the package, put it earlier this week: "There will be no option of staying in bed on full benefits."

Young people without work will have the choice of unemployment removed. In its place will be a choice of a subsidised but low-grade job, voluntary work, a place on an environmental task force or fulltime training. The proposals gloss over the fact that the unappealing jobs already exist.

Labour's adviser on unemployment, Professor Richard Layard of the London School of Economics, points out in his recent book, What Labour Can Do, that long-term unemployment is linked to the longterm payment of unemployment benefits. His conclusion is that anybody out of work for more than six months should be guaranteed a job instead of being able to claim. They just won't be great jobs.

It is hard to see why it is worth spending billions of pounds on un-necessary job measures. This is a remmant of the old Labour obsession with full, and full-time male, employment. It is the other welfareto-work problems that are so much more intractable and so much more expensive because they involve making work more worthwhile.

The most important task is reducing the effective marginal tax rate on people starting low-paid jobs, because they lose so many of their benefit payments so quickly. Introducing tapered withdrawal of benefits will be expensive but is essential to improve work incentives and help relieve poverty.

The Government should also be aiming to make jobs attractive to the people who have been discouraged out of the labour force or cannot look for work. In all the hints about what it might do, one of the simplest possibilities has been over-looked. Lone parents are one important category of people trapped on benefit, unable to take most jobs because the pay does not begin to cover childcare costs. A really radical welfare reform programme would have payment for childcare

Liffe Financial Futures

PIA runs into a personal difficulty over pensions

Since the Personal Investment Authority under Colette Bowe is charged with safeguarding the nation's individual finances, how fitting it is that its own staff pension scheme should be one of

the most generous in the country. This happy state of affairs has however, prompted churlish comments from some observers that perhaps the PIA could turn some of the same energy to sorting out the long-running pensions mis-selling scandal. Even in its internal affairs, however, the PIA appears to be adopting a policy of "Do as I say, not as I do."

Under the new Pensions Act, set up to prevent another Maxwellstyle rip-off, companies have to have a number of membernominated trustees to oversee the company pension fund. There is one exception - if the existing trustees opt out of the provisions of the new Act, they can appoint anyone they want. So far the overwhelming majority of companies have opted for member-nominated trustees

How strange then that the PIA recently tried to block its own staff from appointing their nominated trustee on to the PIA's pension board. The PIA was forced to back down after protests from staff, but not before some of the "ring-leaders" were informally told by management that this would not look good for their career development at the PIA.

I normally think of the Investors Chronicle as an authoritative if staid institution. How shocking then to hear of open mutiny by a writer who occupied the editor's office yesterday morning, sent e-mail to fellow staff on the failings of the management, and was then handcuffed by police and escorted from the building.

Shocked fellow journalists watched as Conor Joyce carried out his own version of passive resistance when management

called in the Bill to remove him. Conor, a 38-year-old reporter, tells me he was leaving the IC at the end of the week anyway to continue his PhD on German art criticism in the early Twentieth Century. "I wanted to complain about the editorial management. IC made an

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Colette Bowe: Still working on the mis-selling scandal

operating profit of £2.5m last year, but as a monopoly it could be making a lot more," he says.

This was a way of crystallising discontent. When the management asked me to leave [the editor's office] and I refused, they over-reacted. They sacked me, but I wouldn't budge. The police were very professional. It was all very civil." He was led out of the building, and set free outside. He is not expecting any further action from the IC, part of FT Magazines. Phew. It makes a change from writing up Hammerson's interims, I suppose.

Compared to the IC fracas, yesterday's Shell agm was a model of decorum, despite the presence of 10 agitators from Friends of the Earth. The FoE people were backing a motion to improve Shell's environmental monitoring and human rights record. The greens hit a problem, however.

Under the company's rules you have to have four shares before you can vote on a motion. The 10 FoE members all possessed a single

aosden fi

celeric show

Shell share so none could vote. A series of anguished speakers asked if four single shareholders could club together and get a vote. They were told no. Tony Juniper, leading the FoE group, later admitted that their shares paled into insignificance beside the institutional block vote, which rejected the green motion.

This does not mean there were no misgivings on Shell's top table.

Mark Moody-Stuart, who is set to succeed John Jennings as chairman in July, says his wife was quite sympathetic to the resolution, which had led to some interesting debates over the breakfast table. In the event, her husband's arguments swayed her and she voted against.

Christopher Heath, the former Barings trader who was once Britain's best paid man, has added a clutch of new signings to his Caspian emerging markets boutique. Derrick Williams joins from Lehman Brothers to become senior global position trader in New York. John Havranek joins from Rapid Data to become head of research in Indonesia, answering to Sean Hughes, head of operations in that country.

Richard Greer, a managing director at Caspian who describes himself as a "bag carrier" for Mr Heath, says the New York appointment is crucial as the US forms Caspian's main client base. Mr Greer first worked for Mr Heath in 1982, and has seen Caspian grow from a bright idea in 1995 to a group employing 250

people today.

Mr Heath has just completed a three-day tour of Asia, is now flying back to London for a three-hour stopover, before going on to New York. He returns to London next week. Mr Greer savs it's not iust a lust for air miles. "He likes to interview all key appointments to make sure he likes them." If he can keep his eyes open long enough.

John Willcock

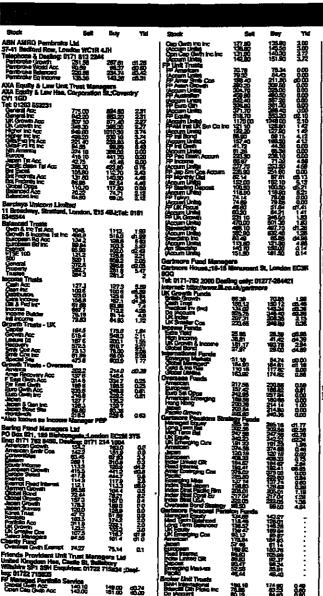


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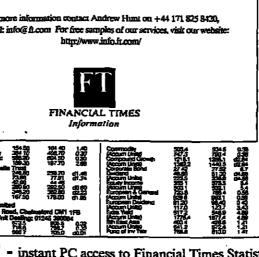
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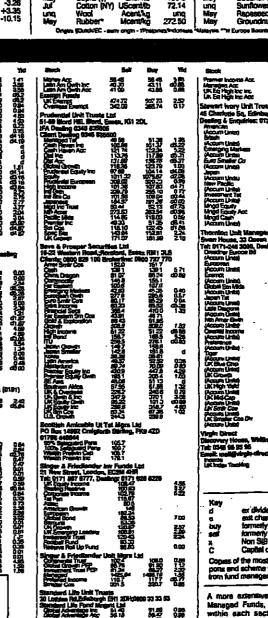
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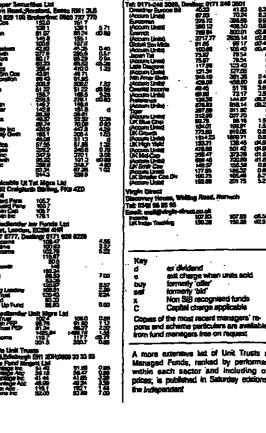
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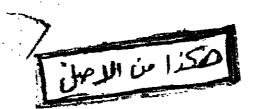


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33.1 31.2





Gosden fears a Derby frame-up

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

A regular piece of advice over the racecourse loudspeakers is to beware of pickpockets. It is also a message that will have been reverberating around the Freemason Lodge stables of the Derby ante-post favourite Entrepreneur last night.

Benny The Dip, a colt named after Damon Runyon's sneak thief, yesterday earned his right to take on the 2,000 Guineas winner at Epsom with a fluent victory here in the Dante Stakes. He led from start to finish to ensure it was those behind him that were finding the pockets on this occasion.

Post Market

PER NOON

Files Control Heats of The

he returned from his last race, er Peslier embarked on a ride see him handy to the pace but to go to Epsom to find out."

Sandown's Classic trial, in the of rare mastery. The French certainly not on the lead. The There will be a few discovery of the control of the control of the certain of race and he blew for 40 minutes,

as it's been more of a veterinary issue than a training issue."

"There was a discharge after the cess by two and a half lengths. At the line came the first manquite a distressed blow, and ual gesture as the rider waved none of our horses do that. A to the crowd in celebration. lot of credit must go to the vet Then there was a Churchillian who should also be a Runyon action as Peslier denoted this character with the name of was his second Dante (he won Benoît Hendricks] because you on Glory Of Dancer last year) can't train sick horses that are and finally a high five with the

full of mucus. Full marks to him winning trainer. "We didn't monkey about Benny The Dip looked anything but infirm in the paddock them," Gosden said. "We want-Michael Howard of the field, a na so there was no point fiddling dark figure, with just a single dab about at the back, waiting and Benny The Dip is now as low of white between his eyes for trying to pounce, as that a dying horse who was running to pounce, as that contrast. He was the first to wouldn't have told us anything.

grip of malady. "He came back champion cranked up the pace lead up here is the toughest in with mucus flying out of his nose and coughing, John Gosden, the winning trainer, said. he surged up the straight to suctened to the previous race being run. If you've got a nervous horse he'll unravel at York, but are all running for second in a way I wanted to do that here place," the trainer said. "If he to see how he'd handle Epsom."

terra firma he was questioned asked him because I like to have and we went out there to see if a jockey's immediate gut feel-he could stay and he outstayed ing on something like that," Gosden said. "I don't like them yesterday, however. He was the ed to find out about his stami- to go back into the weighing room and think about it.

cries on 7 June and Gosden him to be. "If Entrepreneur is this superb champion then we runs to his Guineas form and Before Peslier was back on stays a mile and a half like his sister we are all running for secabout Benny The Dip's capac- ond place. But, hell, there's ity to extend his range at Epsom. good money in that and I seem That was the first question I to spend all my time running second and third in the Derby Tamure, Presenting and Shantou have all reached the frame] so I might as well do it again." THE DERBY (Epsom, 7 June): Coral:

11-10 Entrepreneur, 5-1 Revoque, 7-1 Silver Patriarch, 10-1 Benny The Dip; Ladhokes: 4-5 Entrepreneur, 9-2 (with a run) Revoque, 7-1 Benny The Dip, 8-1 Salver Pamarch, 16-1 Fahris & Sheye,



2.65: TRIPLE HAY, who caught the eye when finishing a length fifth to Green Jewel in a 7f handicap at Newmarket earlier in the month. should be fitter for the run and looks fairly handicapped. Jeffreyanoth-erred may be the main danger.

2.35: BLUE DUSTER, who had an injury-interrupted campaign as a three-year-old but nevertheless managed a highly creditable length second to listantal in the Group One Haydock Park Sprint Cup over to-day's trip of 6f on the last of her three starts. Taking a drop in class here, she will be hard to beat. Roy-

3.10: CLASSIC CLICHE, who won this race last year, went on to win the Group One Ascot Gold Cup over 2m4f before finishing a high-ly creditable runner-up to Pentire in the Group One King George VI and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes over 1m4f at Ascot. Clearly

Helissio in the Group One Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp over 1m4f on his final start, the se-lection has a lot less to do on this occasion. Mons may be the one to follow him home. aaa

3.40: SHAYA, a promising 11/4 lengths second to Cape Cross in a Im maiden at Doncaster on his only run as a two-year-old and subject of highly encouraging reports over the winter, which he has spent in Dubai, is an exciting middle-distance prospect who should stay 1m4f this year. Asas, from the Godolphin team which has not enjoyed as much success as hitherto this year below his best after an interrupted preparation when unplaced behind to write off just yet, is the danger. but whom it could be a big mistake

Celeric should have last word over Cliche

For the benefit of punters who are getting a little weary of Classic trials, the feature race at York this afternoon offers an interesting variation on the theme. Classic Cliche, the best stayer in Europe last season, will stayer in Europe last season, will be put to the test for the first Cliche have demonstrated that pion this afternoon, he surely time this year in the Yorkshire Cup, a race he won 12 months ago, and we should swiftly discover whether one of the most admirable horses in training will

remain a champion much

2.05 Triple Hay 2.35 Blue Duster 3.10 Classic Cliche Greg Wood has faith in a new recruit to Cup competition

It is not so long since the identity of the leading stayer was decided almost by default, but in recent years, horses like afternoon, just as he may be throughout the long summer cycle of Cup races.

Indeed, if David Morley's considerable promise, is another to watch, but CELERIC (nap 3.10) will surely prevail this afternoon.

His odds today will be stamina can be every bit as exciting as speed. Better still, a efit of a previous run, when an new generation is emerging to excellent fourth over an inadechallenge them, and its most promising member, Celeric, should prove to be Classic Cliche's most serious rival this

4.10 Happy Days 4.40 Kennemara Star (nb)

5.10 GAME PLOY (nap)

HYPERION

3.40 Shaya
GOING: Good. STALLS: 5f to 7f - stands side; round course side - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Course is I'm S of city on A1036. York station I'm. ADMISSION: County Stand \$22 (16-25 year-olds \$14); Trucesalls \$12; Silver Ring \$5 (OAPs \$2.50); Course Enclosure \$3 (OAPs \$1.50). Under-16s free all enclosures. Car PARKs: \$2, remainter free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: M Stouts — 23 winners from 114 runners gives a success ratio of 20.2% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$52.47; J Gooden — 18 winners, 90 runners, 20.5%, \$18.48; R Hammon — 15 winners, 139 runners, 10.3%, \$58.87; P Cole — 12 winners, 86 runners, 14.8%, \$21.82.

LEADING JOCKETS: L Detxori — 40 winners, 104 rides, 24.4%, \$155.40; Pat 84-dary — 32 winners, 181 rides, 17.7%, \$6.53; J Reid — 30 winners, 141 rides, 14.2%, \$31.31; W R Swindsum — 18 winners, 130 rides, 14.6%, \$58.88.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Major Change \$5.10) sent 276 mises by Mise Gay Kellessay from Whitcombe, Dorset.

2.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £20,388

never will. Celeric has the benquate 12 furlongs in the Jock-ey Club Stakes at Newmarket and gets 5lb from Classic just once, finishing second in Cliche. Mons, also a stayer of what was, even by Doncaster's

It will also be a result to please the traditionalists if Shaya can win the Glasgow Stakes, and do so well enough to give Dick Hern a realistic

235 DUKE OF YORK INTERNATIONAL FACTORS STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £40,000 added 6f £28,400

ROYAL APPLAUSE has a favourable low draw and showed at Doncaster that he's back to something like his useful juvenile ability. He pinged over this purf to win his Girncrack and it is likely he's made enough progress to reverse Haydock Park Sprint form with the filly Blue Duster, who hean't raced since. Difficient could be specified with his 6lb penalty for his narrow win from Lucayan Pinnee in the Diadem, and Danabill Dancer, another classy juvenile, is preferred even though he would like the ground a bit softer. Farhasia could find the ground too lively, and ladian Spark is asked a stem question against his olders.

Selection: ROYAL APPLAUSE

- 9 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Classic Clicho, 9-2 Celeric, Whitewater Affair, 13-2 Katta, 8-1 Mons, Wilsonmotor,

FORM CUDE.

What a cracker in store with the staying power of Classic Clicke against the turn-of-foot of CELETEC. Classic Clicke has a record to preserve, having won first time up over the past three years, which includes the Dante and this race 12 months ago when he saw off Strate-

10-1 May To My Heart, 14-1 others 1998: Classic Clicke 4 9 0 M J Kirans 2-1 (Saeed bin Sunton) drawn (5) 5 ran

standards, an ordinary maiden, but Hern holds him in high

His odds today will be equally unrealistic, and while he may be a potential champion, Shaya is certainly worth opposing. Greek Palace (3.40), the only member of the field without a Derby entry, has the best chance to beat him, while Blue Duster (2.35)

ais	o desi	erves support.
3	40	MECHAEL SEELY MEMORIAL GLASGOW STAKES (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 85yds £9,681
1	10-	ASAS (201) (Cookstrant) Second by Surcor 8 12
2	1-0	SOPHOMORE (26) (BF) (Nr K Abouta) B His 8 12 Miles 6 77
3 4		CREEK PALACE (26) (BF) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 8 9
5		RAMMATCH (26) (Hesmands Stud) J Dunion 8 9
6		SYMONDS NOT (2015) (BF) (Narquesa de Mostgala) J Fiz Gesald 8 9

FORM GUIDE

Two poor runs have to be discounted to consider either Assas or Sophomore, and SHAYA, de-looks best, Well-regarded when raced just the none at two, Shaya ran green in second to Cape Cross at Doncaster with Voyagers Quest three lengths back in third. Shaya wents this longer trip and the stable's Restaik was sharp enough at Newbury last month when four lengths too good for Greek Pelaloce, who started fevourist on his debut. A half-brother to Vorischire Oaks winner Helleruc, Greek Pelaco should improve, especially over this longer trip. Assas looked really smart with a debut we not in Newmarket last October, but he flooped backy be-hind stablemens Medisty in the Racing Post. Sophomore falled to give his running behind Royal Armaretio at Newbury when he started fevourite on the strength of his debut win at Doncaster last backend. Reliasastein has plenty of Improvement to come affair his second to the hotpot Marmatik at Newbury.

4 40	TRAVELLING THE TURF MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000	i
4.10	added 270 6f Penalty Value £5,892	
	AFTER THE RAW DAY K Abdullas) 8 Hills 9 0M Hills 1	٠
!	- ATLANTIC VINDIG (Adartic Pacing Limited) M Johnston 9 0	
24	HAPPY DAYS (11) (BF) (Ar J W Barrett) D Motion 9 0	,
	HARMIGE (Abion Invisioners) M Chanton 9 0Pat Eddary 5	1
	JUES JEWEL (No. Lule & Combil) M Chapman 9 0	
5	LAKELAND PRIDE (6) (Mr.) G White) P Biens 9 0 F Egen 6	1
	MORSALEM (LISA) (Review Int) S bin Support 9 ()	1
1	WALES (H R H Prince Faind Salman) P Cole 9 0T Calon 4	:
	BELLADERA (Mrs D Winglio) in Timber 8 9	ě
_	- 9 declared -	į
	unione de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya del la companya de	

This is naried on for a newcomer with Measaglem, After The Rain and WALES halling from powerful stables. Paul Cole's juveriles are always tough to beat first time and the stable won the trace last year with Belgravia, so Wales is the choice. He is an early food by Caerleon out of an irish Cales w/mer and thus a half-brother to the depert Ryadian. Berry Hills introduces only his second juverile of the season in After The Rain who, like Wales, is out of a Rain-bow Quest mane. This trip could be on the sharp side for a son of French Derby winner Sangianore, whose only juverile nin was over a mile.

Selection: WALES

17	(46)	RERRY MAGICOAL CENTENARY HANDICAP (CLAS	s c
15	1.4U	BERRY MAGICOAL CENTENARY HANDICAP (CLAS. £10,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £8,285	
1	14-30	RESH ACCORD (USA) (19) (Mr P A Leonard) Mrs 3 Ramsdan 9 7	anol (
2	321060	FOOT BUTTALION (8) (D) (Mr J E Bigs) R Hollinsheed 9 2	100 #
3		THERELLO (10) (N/ A M Al-Midan) G Levis 9 2(5es)	
4		BOLD ORBERTAL (10) (D) (BF) (Mr M Tabor) N Calleghan 9 0	
5		KALINEKA (19) (Sing Record Chin) P Cole 9 0T Q	
Ē		CALYPSO LADY (11) (SP) 04's D M Vérto R Hannon 8 12Dene 0	
7		BRANDON JACK (10) OAr R P 8 Michaelson) Baiding 8 12	
B		OVER TO YOU (USA) (13) (D) (Maksoum A Maksoum) E Dunkop 8 11	
9	543.01	GREAT CHIELD (S) (D) (Mr Seeed Suhait) M Stoute 8 11(5a)	been 1
10	220.55	MAINT Y CAMER (FR) (S) (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 8 10K D	below 3
=	200		

1998: Missile 3 8 7 R Cochisne 6-1 co far (W Haggest dawn (12) 13 ran
FORM GUIDE

The hissly market leaders KCRINEMARA START and Great Chilid have been tucky with an unside draw. John Dunlop has done so well with his handbappers on this course over the years and Kennemana Star is a half-brother to his hardy warriors Dawning Street and Special Dawning Liversite promise was shown and kennemana Star is a was protein rise a Lakestiar handrap off only 70 last month and won it without breaking sweet. He still looks on an eyecatching mark (7th higher) and Pat Eddery takes the ride with only four below them in the weights. Great Child has a 5th pensity for his Chester van last week from Leffrey Anothered. He should also progress further and may again hold the close third, Boillin Terry (ligh draw today), I Cam't Reseasaber (fourth on his favounte course) and Foot Battoslion (leighth). Olivier Pesser reported that Over To You didn't stay at Newmarket (1m 2th last time. He's a moe type who could well reverse Portedfect form with Capitalin Scoth (triad to Future Persec) despite benig a pound worse in. Cauthon is without a recent him, but this filly we as useful last term, she'll like the ground and, with a good draw, rates the stable pick over lists Accord. Calyseo Lady looks weighted to the hit, but Tigrallo should go well now that he's confirmed earlier promise with an easy madern win at Warwick. Boild Greetable was exposed at Kempton after winning a week race at Bath, and Kalisaka doesn't look hardy enough for the task.

П	E 47	LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE RATED HANDICAP	(CLASS B)
Ŀ	امتد	LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE RATED HANDICAP £13,000 added 1m 2f 85yds Penalty Value £8,	792
ī	3/2-01	ROCKY DASKS (USA) (19) 609 (Maktourn Al Maktourn) M. Stoute 4 9 7	
·Ž	2600/5	COTTER CHIEF (37) (W) Nevite J Nevite 6 9 6	Weaver 4
3	20305-	STORY LINE (198) (The Story Line Permestrip) D Arbushrot 4 9 3	Fortune 1
4	1/03-	WARRA SANDS (199) (Lord Swaything) J Dunion 4 9 3	K Dericy 5
5	2001-6	CLAN BEN (12) (Angus Dunder Pic) H Ceci 5 9 2	K Fallon Š B
6		MAJOR CHANGE (22) (D) (The Two in One Parmership) Gay Helicusy 5 9 1.	
7		MAIDER CASTLE (226) (D) (Sheidi Mohemmed) / Gosden 4 9 0	
8		RED ROBBO (CAN) (\$71) (C) (Lucayan Stud) R Alehust 4 8 13	
9		GAME PLOY (POL) (9) (D) (Mr Keven R Kynaston) D Haydn Jones 5 8 11	
10		BRANDON MAGEC (5) GA: R P B Michaelson) I Balding 4 8 11	
11		VAN GURT (23) (C) (Barouche Stud Ltd) B McMahon 4 8 10	
12	1130-2	GIVE NE A RONG (20) (C) (At G Reed) C Thomas 489	ean McKetta 6
13	00-421	CHAMPAGNE PRINCE (13) (D) (Magnum Force) P Hams 489	,C Lowther (7) 9
14	003-30	STAR BLAKAGER (USA) (LO) (Ar III Arbib) P Cole 7.8.8	T Quina 7
		- 14 declared -	

1996; Key To My Heart 6 9 5 J Wester 12-1 (Miss S Half) drawn (1) 6 ran

PORTM GUIDE

Denik Haydin Jones is having winners all over the place and Guste Ploy is naised on to go close after an eyecatching lifth to Break The Rules at Chester. He improved 21lb through last year and the Chester run (Brandon Magic held) suggests he hasn't finished yet. However, although ROCKY OASSE's medien with from younger heals at Leicester wasn't that impressive, he settled better that day after puting head in a hot race at Newmarket. Rocky case has promised to be smart and would be up to defying the burden if back to the form that enabled him to stratch St. Leger winner Sharitou at Sandown a year ago. Classingser Prince was very gameat Newmarket a fortught ago. That win followed a fine second to Major Change at Epsom and, with the appressics 5 claim, he meets Major Change on 8th better terms. Claim Bein will be better for his recent run and meets Geme Ploy on 10th better terms. Claim Bein will be better for his recent run and meets Geme Ploy on 10th better terms compered to fast-ground form at Newbury lest September. Real Robbio has to be of interest having his first run for Reg Alvehust.

Selection: ROCKY OASIS

RESULTS

FORM GALORE has the favoured inside draw and this Newbury debut winner (beat Wolf Mountain) was considered good enough to contest the Champagne Stakes at Goodwood. He flopped then, but looks up to beating handlospers. Ed Dunlop went close with Winter Romance in this last year and Tayseer is the danger. He progressed well at two to defeat a big field at Redear at the backend and he also has a good draw. It looks tight between Speedball, such Nick and Triple Hay on Newmarket running behind Green level (some stable as Triple Hay) a fortingist ago. Chemta Paradian, in a strong race at Doncester ten days ago, has possibilities, but Cosmic Prince and Arruham have it to do

Selections FUN GALORE

1996: Polish Springs 3 8 6 6 Thomson 14-1 (6 Hills) drawn (5) 14 ran

VORK

2.05: 1. PAPPENING (I. Deston) 8-11 fav; 2. Churdot to Corday 11-4; 3. Ball Gown 6-1. 5 ran. 4, 9. (I. Currani; Newmarket). Totas: 61.60; 51.20, 51.40. Dr. 51.50. CSF: 52.74. 2.38: 1. TWINCE AS SHAPP (B Hard) 10-1; 2. lago di Varrano 20-1; 3. Bishops Coart 13-8 fav, 14 ran. 4, 9. (P Harris, Berkhamsed). Totas: 510.50; 52.50; 54.00, 51.90. Dr. 557.20. CSF: 5190.43. Tricas: 5455.28. Inc. 51.97.20. 3.10: 1. BENNY THE DIP (O Pesier) 100-30 fav; 2. Desent Shary 4-1; 3. Nivasional 8-1. 9 ran. 24, 4. U Gesten, Nearmarket, Totas: 54.50; 51.70. 51.90, 52.20. Dr. 56.10. CSF: 51.60.8. Tric 52.290. 3.40: 1. CENTRE STALIS (T Qurran 10-1; 2. Prisce Babar 6-1; 3. Insastiable 6-1, 14 ran. 5-1 far Hammerstein. 24, 14, (R. John-

2. Prince Bahar 6-1; 3. Insertiable 6-1, 14
ran. 5-1 fav Hammerstein. 24, 114, (R. Johnson Houghton, Odcot), Totas: £13.70; £3.80, £2.10. £2.00. DF: £9.40. CSP: £70.76, Thest: £386.62. Trio: £80.70
4.10: 1. BRODYGUARD (T Quinn) 2-7 fav; 2. Out Lise Magie 12-1; 3. Inchestin 15-2, 4 ran. 14, 6. (F Cole, Whistcombe), Totas: £1.30. DF: £3.10. CSF: £4.88.

NAP: Kennemara Star (York 4.40) NB: Sovereigns Court (York 3.50)

4.40: 1. TURNPOLE (A Culture) 6-1; 2. Openers 6-1; 3. Midyan Blue 11-2 fev. 15 carl. Sh-hd, 1/4. (Mrs M Reveley, Sathurn). Totae £7.70: £2.60. £2.30. £2.10. Df: £17.40. CSF; £40.31. Titoast £196.93. Tno: £24.50. NR: Executive Design. Jackgoot: £7.899.60: £7,899.88 carried franced to vivot inclass.

HEREFORD 1.55: 1. SONG OF THE SWORD OM A largereid 4-7 tay 2. Meft The Clouds 9-4; Noble Colours 5-1. 6 ran. 4, 14, U Old. other £1.50: £1.10, £1.20. DF: £1.50. CSF: 21.10 2.11.
2.25: 1 FLEET CADET (6 Supple) 2-5 fev;
2. Look in The Mirror 7-2: 3. Just For A
Research 8-1. 7 ren. 7. 9. (M Pupe). Total:
51.40: fil.10, fil.90. DF: fil.90. CSF:
fil.90.

1.90. 3.00: 1 BALLY CLOVER (N Witamson) 3.00: 1. BALLY CLUVER (N. WIESENSON FOR 15-8 Say, 2. Coasting 20-1; 3. Disemond For 9-4. 5 cap. Hd, 19-4. (Mes Veneta Wilsens). Tobs: £2 10: £2.10, £7.10, DF: £16.50. CSF: £21.33. NR: Woodlands Gentine.



3.30: 1. TATHBUN (X Acquird, 13-2; 2. Flow Back 7-1; 3. Tee Tee Too 1.4-1, 10: am. 6-4 fav Roverse Thrust, 4, 1/4. (M. Bockey). Toba: 67.90: 52-60, 52-60, 53-50, DF: 520-60, CSP: 550-12. Tittast: 5573-83. Titts: £118-40; 0.55 carried forward to York 4.40 today. 4.00: 1. SPECIAL BEAT (Mr C Vigors) 8-13 fav; 2. Russhaway 12-1; 3. Lard Foloy 9-1. 8 ran. Dist. 23. (N Henderson). Tota: £1.60; £1.10, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £8.20. CSF. £8.20.

____D Weight 6 98 _R Wallen (5) 4 102 _L Charnock 16 96 ___T Willems 8 96

4.5R 1. MINS MELLORIUM, (NY CYMENTS) 2-1 fen; 2. Triffest Lad 6-1; 3. Resty Bridge 12-1-1; ren. 3½, 21. (D Goldsworthy). Toler 25:50; £1.50, £3.20, £1.60. Dr. £8.00. CSF £12.61. Thu: £28.60. 5.00: 1. CASTLE OWEN (Mr R Thormon) 4-5 fav. 2. Cinnamon Clarb 5-2; 3. Be in Space 12-1, 10 ran. 12, 9. (D Nicholson). Tota: £1.60; £1.10, £1.20, £5.10, DF. £2.80. CSF: £3.10. Trio: £22.90. NR: Deep C Dva. Discount: £15.40.

2.15; 1 DAYRELLA (M Roberts) 14-1; 2. 2.15: 1. DAYNELLA (IN HOUSTS) 1-4. 4. Neumbers Bay 20-1; 3. Signis And Wooders 20-1. 14 ram. 7-2 for House Golf Moser. Hd., rk. (W. Mur., Lamboum). Totae: £14.10: £2.80, £91.30, £18.20, DF. £174.90. CSF. £256.88. House: £4.990.88. Tree: £290.60. 2.48: 1. PETOSKIN (M. Wighern). 15-8 lt. fav. 2. One Off The Rail 5-2; 3. Carafa States 16-48 lt. fav. Banabanou. Say 2. One Off The Rail 5-2; 3. Care's Dream 10-1. 6 ran. 15-8 t for Beabanco (4th), 3/h, 1. U Pearso, Neumarkett, Total 52.40; £1.20, £1.40. DF: £2.90. CSP. £8.40.

3.50: 1. RESIST THE FORCE (R Fliench) 3.50: 1. RESIST THE PURCE IC PARTS.
9-2; 2. Ertlem 7-2 (8V; 3. Pengamon 4-1.
8 van. Nr. 3. (C.Cum.; Hosham), Totae £7.40;
£1.40, £1.10, £2.10. DF. £11.40. GSF.
£17.91. Tricast: £59.97.
4.20: 1. SKY COMMANDER (D Hamson) 4.20: 1. SKY COM 5-20: 1. SRY COMMANDER ID FISHMAN) 2-5 tor, 2. Goodbye Gebrusen 100-1: 3. log-gier 10-1. 13 ren. 2, 6. (M Smuth. New-marked). Yote: £1.50; £1.10, £17.10, £1.70, DF: £70.70, CSF: £118.63. Trios 508 (Ye)

£88.00. 4.50: 1 CANTON VENTURE (W Ryan) 7-1; 4.50.*1. CANTON VENTURE (W Ryen) 7-1:
2. Mister Aspecto 16-1; 3. in The Miseny
10-1.13 ma. 4-1; its Gentes Haven 94th,
Maradi 5, 3. is Woods, Newmentso. Year
£11.00; £4.50, £6.60, £3.00, Df. £100.70.
CSF. £113.54, Tricast: £1.061.22. Tric.
£224.50: £158.17 carried toward to York
4.40 today.
Place 5: £3,770.00. Quadquot: £102.50.
Place 6: £3,057.40. Place 5: £191.27.

David Walsh yesterday received a four-week ban for failing a drug test. The 22-year-old, who went close to landing the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Barton Bank in March, has been stood down on Saturday until 16

Bookmaker Sonny Purcell yesterday lost his Jockey Club appeal against being warned off due to a debt arising from SP Racing Bookmakers. Purcell has until 2 June to clear his debt. Evening results, page 29

2.15 Percy-B 2.45 Saffron Rose 3.20 Badiesmere 3.50 Kewarra 4.20 Cheval Roc 4.50 Lonely Heart 5.20 Tappeto GOING: Good to Firm (Good final for 3f). STALLS: Straight course - far side; 1m2f - inside; 1m4f - stands

sace.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers may have an edge up to 7L

Right-hand course, mainly uphill and testing.

Course is 3m SW of city off A3094. Selisbury station (London, Waterioo-Exeter line) 3m, Bus service to com Mambers \$13: Tattersalls \$9: Course Encloser suder-16s free all enclosures). GAR PARK: Fre

RADINGERS I THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Double Alleged (3,20) has been sent.
264 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yarkshirt. 2.15 WARMINSTER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,350 added 270 5f

R Hoghes 4

Paul Editory 7

R Portem 3

P P Marphy (5) 8

J Quies 5 PAG KOPAR M Channon 9 0... TAKE A TUEN M. Chamon 90.

2.45 DRUIDS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m

1 -15220 PRIST CHANCE (22) D Esworth 9 7 ______ Paul Eddery 14
2 -04234 AROUND FORE ALLISS (24) T Mils 9 6 ___ A Whatan (3) 12 00356- PALAEMON (200) G Belding 9 5

gic Choice. A measure of the true class of the St Lager winner was shown when he firshed second to Perdice in the King George after his Assot Gold Cup win. On yesterday's evidence the ground is fast enough for Celeric, who ideally warts it like a road. Per Eddery is the chosen partner on the retrement of Willie Carson, and the gelding returned to action tooking as good as ever or Newmarket a fortright ago. That 12 furfores was too sharp for him and he wern at this feature last year on his second start. He has progressed from handleaps into a class stayer and his ability to quicken up means that Classoc Cliche will have to be in top condition to beat him. Mores, third to Time Allowed in the Newmarkst race, was a couple of lengths ahead of Celenc. He was thus reversing St Leger form with Samzate. Whitevater Affair is a tough sity, though with more on her plate after landing the John Porter at Newbury. She can again best Kurita (third) and Sacrament (severith), but Samzaten (tenth) could be a different proposition today now that has been unus under his beit. Wilessander lacks the ness to a figure and lever to like Heavet mey also find the company too hot. too hot. 11. 33-524 KAISER KACHE (13) (Mr Peter Benday) K McJuffle 8 10. Selection: CELERIC 22 13 CAPPAIN SCOTT (29) (D) (The Wate State Parmental) J 600-0 BREYWOR (16) D Munay Smith 9 0 ... 20532 Betterdream (16) R Hannon 9 0 ... __M Roberts 2 ___F Norton 12 _M Heary (3) 7 O-06 DR WOODSTOCK (16) M Meade 8 8. OO-0 BLUE IMPERIAL (17) (22) J His 8 7. O-50 AGENT MULDER (17) P Cundel 8 5.

3.20 DURNFORD STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

ie-Hyem 812 ______ Reid 1 - 4 declared - RETING: 11-10 Redicemere, 7-2 Double Alleged, Royal Grown, 9-2 Retcher 3.50 TRYON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f

13 -11505 REFET (6) R Ingram 48 12 14 0544-0 KENARRA (48) B Milleren

4.20 REDENHAM CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 7f 413-00 MY BELOVED (15) R Harmon 9 2 R Hoghes 4 6- OVER THE MOON (177) M Februsian-Godley 9 2 C Rotter 16 4665-0 POLLY POOT FRED (46) B Willman 8 7.

- 17 decimed -HETTENG: 3-1 Chevai Roc, 9-2 bly Beloved, 10-1 Blysterlon, 12-1 Leet Cheece, Impain, Mice Perogrise, Glony Wossername, Skippy Wes A Khel, 14-1 off-

4.50 NETHERHAMPTON MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added filles & mares 1m 2f

2300-2 TAPPERO (8) H Cardy 5 9 5 _____ C Rotter 1-0001 MAZZIRER (9) (9) M Poe 4 9 45es _____ Paul Eide 542206 MEDITA'S STAR (59) (5) M Mempy Stroth 4 8 13 _ Sanders 00400- MED BROWNING (203) (0) R Alejtuns 6 8 13 _ S Sanders 14330- SERBOUS TRUST (278) (CD) (BF) Mrs L Javel 4 8 8.... 200-62 ATLANTIC MEST (LD) (D) 8 Milman 4 8 5 - 14 declared -BETTMG: 2-1 Manurelt, 13-2 Atlantic Mist, 7-1 Toppoto, Mr Browning, 10-1 Prospero, 14-1 Midda's Star, 16-1 Gamair, Opera Buff, Astral Wooks, High

HYPERION

1.55 Rallegio 2.25 Military Academy 3.00 Nijway 3.30 Liniathen 4.00 Charlistiona 4.30 Savoy 5.00 Old Bombay GOING: Good to Soft.

Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.: Course is in Score Pulses Pairle, 4m N of town on ARS. Buses from Perth station (service from Dindee) 4m. ADMISSION: Mest-bers £12; Tattersalls & Paddock £7 (OAPs & disabled £4); Course der free. RIJNICERED FIRST TOME: Stx Clerks (4.00).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DESTANCE RUNDERS: Gold Pigeon (3.00) sent 228 miles by B Rothwell from Malton, North Yorkshire; Six Checks (4.00) newsy (5.00) sent 223 miles by J PazGerald from Nor-1.55 PIMMS CHARITY POLO TOURNAMENT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m

23-F63 1910W-H0-H0-SIZ) (50) M Herrarond S 11.0 R Gently TOP4 RESAL DOMAIN (21) Mrs L Mershall S 11.0 L. K Johnson

9 0-0900 AUTO RACING (20) M Todhuraer 6 10 9......C McCormack (7) BETTHIC: 7-4 Railegio, 11-4 Know Ho-No, 11-2 All Clear, 13-2 Asi

6 SCALLY BEAU (27) Liurgo 6 11 0 R Supple 6F423P STROMBALCHIK (5) P Cheesing (7 11 0 A S Salito OPP GLINE POWN (22) D Lamb 6 10 9. OBSOOP MEADOWLECK (5) W Young 8 10 9...... OFFOOD OFFINDING (81) W Reed 5 10 9

Strangelog, 10-1 Hoosing Spring, 20-1 Rambling Rajah, Scally Beau, 33-1 others

P231P1 TOUGH TEST (12) (CD) Mrs J Goodfellow 7 11 1...

CEL 110. RETTHER: 11-4 Rough Test, Allewy, 5-1 East Rosston, 7-1 Majority Major, Cold Pigeon, 10-1 Kalaja, 14-1 Reight Destiny, 20-1 others

3.30 BELL & SIME HANDICAP HUROLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 520130 PARBARI (22) (P) M Todaurier B 10 10 _____ R Damenosity 1F3F53 CHILL WIND (10) N Bycolt 8 10 0 ____ R Supple 65000- FRENCH PROJECT (F11) Mis S Brackerne S 10 0 __M Featur

-5 declared Maintum weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Firstch Projekt Sct. 3h.
SETTERE: 13-8 Linisthen, 11-4 Dake Of Parth, 4-1 Parish, Chill Wind, 14-1

4.00 REEVES & NEYLAN NOVICE HCAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 110yds

- 7 declared -Minimum weight 10st. True handtap weight Prince Baktasay 8st 12lb. mill, 3-1 Yesisy N'Alteb, Charlettone, 11-2 Stx Clerks,

LINLITHGOW NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds -2211F DESIGN BLUE (21) Mass P Robson 8 12 8 Miles P Robson (5) #4-423 V(BHS SPRIME (10) Miss C Desson 12 12 Olyles V Jackson (5) 36565-HEED (883) Lyal Proven 12 12 0 ______Mir O MisPhell (7) 332-F2 SAVOY (6) G Richards 10 12 0 ______Cinpoin A Ogden (7) 314123 WHIL TRAVEL (12) (617) A Dickman 8 12 0 Like A Robson (7)

- 6 section -BEITING: 7-4 Servy, 4-1 Houstgean, 9-2 Denira Blue, 13-2 Moster Kit, 8-1 Will Travel, 10-1 Harden Glee, 16-1 Ring Spring, 33-1 Reed

5.00 PERTH MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) 2m 110yds 6 BEN DOURA (45) Mrs M Restby 5 11 10 M He O PAPERWORK PETE (237) W Story 5 11 10 _R McGrath (5) WOTSTHEPROBLEM Mrs M Raveley 5 11 10 _______ 8 Lee YOUNG TOMO J Howard Johnson 5 11 10 _____ FO McPhall (7) VEENIOSÕ Mes D Thomson 5 11 5.

say, 10-1 Noble Tom, Young Tomo, The Keek, 52-1 others

For those of us who rode the jet stream of Ali's progress, sights of him in full flow are bound to bring on sadness

the biggest sensation in boxing his-tory by knocking out George Fore-man in Zaire to regain the world heavyweight championship, he invited two British sportswriters into his bungalow at Nsele on the banks

The clamour of momentous achievement had yet to descend from Kinshasa and the only other people present were Ali's bodyguard, a Chicago policeman Pat Pat-terson, his aunt Coretta Clay and the other cook Lanna Shabazz, who was fixing a meal for him

Foreman had landed some heavy punches, but apart from a small bruise beneath the right eye, Ali was unmarked. Dressed in black slacks and matching black shirt, he was sit-

legs stretched across a low table. That alarming decision to fight Foreman off the ropes brought to a glorious conclusion, he said. "There he was swingin' away and all the time I was talkin' to him sayin': Hit harder, George. That the best you got? Harder, sucker, swing harder. You the champion and you gettin' nowhere'. Then pop! I'd stick him with a jab."

Partly because it was unusual to hear Ali swear (he first checked to ensure that the ladies were out of earshot), the thing I most remember Ali saying was: "I done fucked up a lot of minds."

Sadly, the probable long-term effects of that and subsequent contests (as well as risks taken in sparring to be confident of withstanding the heaviest punishment) has long since occupied our attention.

hibition of photographs by Ali's long-time friend Howard Bingham, coinciding with tomorrow's London release of When We Were Kings, a vivid, Oscar-winning account of the most dramatic event sport has ever

For those of us who rode the jet stream of Ali's stupendous progress. sights of him in full flow, talking up a storm, soaring from one flight of fantasy to the next, are bound to bring on sadness.

Motor senses numbed by the onset of Parkinson's Syndrome make him tread carefully now, the measured steps symptomatic of a con-



dition surely caused by too many head punches. People say that within its confines Ali remains happy, intellectually sound.

"When something catches Ali's interest, the response is immediate." Bingham said. "For a moment suddenly he rolls back the years. I think he enjoys life, I really do."

Wett, who has spent three months on a documentary about Ali as he is now that will be shown next week on German television. Close to Ali for 30 years, he came across encouraging examples of his awareness.
"Howard is absolutely right," he

said. "If something interests Ali he becomes, however briefly, almost his old self again.
"A short while ago in Chicago, he

grabbed my arm and edged to-wards a framed picture of him boxing. He'd identified the other guy. 'Jürgen Blin,' he said. Now that wasn't one of Ali's big fights and it took place in Zurich in 1971, so his memory appears to be intact."

More recently, Wett was asked if on his toes and started shadow Ali could handle a short tribute at That view is shared by Benn a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breakthrough as the first black play-er in Major League baseball. "I didn't want to embarrass Ali, but when I mentioned Robinson's name that old smile came to his face. 'Is he dead?" he asked. It would have been enough for him to say 'Jack-

> est, the greatest of all times, greater than I ever was'." Ali's performance at an event put on for children in Pensacola, Florida, by the light-heavyweight champion, Roy Jones, surprised Wett even more. "Roy persuaded Ali to get in-

volved and, astonishingly, he got up

boxing. Larry Merchant of HBO was there and shared my amazement 'Did you see that?' he said. For a few moments the light was back in his eyes'. I don't think Ali is sail and he gets a lot of loving care from his wife, Lannie. The great thing, of course, is that as sport's supreme hero he still commands a great deal of attention'."

There has recently been a sugie, you were great' but, astonishingly, gestion that Ali may benefit from a he went further, adding: The greatnew treatment. I don't know about this but there is no sense in doubt-ing the probability that his plight is linked directly to boxing.

When We Were Kings is a smashing film, but it only proves that Zaire was indeed the time to start worrying about him.

Monty

goes to

work on

greens

reports from Hanbury Manor

Afraid that he is on the road to nowhere, Colin Montgomerie has taken the A10 to Ware. The

Scot heads the field in the Alamo

English Open at Hanbury Manor today, along with Jose Maria Olazabal, who is making his first

ANDY FARRELL

Nottinghamshire make themselves at home

Cricket

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Old Trafford Lancashire 125 Nottinghamshire 128-4

An exceedingly green pitch, seam, poor batting and excellent slip catching made for a day of high entertainment. A total of 14 wickets fell and one hopes that a flurry of pitch inspectors will not descend on Old Trafford, for there was nothing wrong with the surface.

In these days of anaemic covered pitches it made an agreeable change to see such a lively surface. It showed how illprepared modern batsmen are when they have to contend with these conditions and it was all a powerful argument for a return to uncovered pitches. Let us hope that Peter Mar-

ron, the Old Trafford groundsman, can come up with something similar for the third lest and that the first two, at Edgbaston and Lord's, are not all that different. The Australian batsmen would be scut-

tling about all over the place. Overnight rain held up the start until 12.15pm and then, after Nottinghamshire had decided to field, Kevin Evans made the most of it. At a brisk fast-medium, he found bounce and moved the ball sharply away from the right-hander. Strangely, he only seemed to swing the ball when changing his line to bowl to lefthanders. He took 6 for 40, the best figures of his career.

to fine leg and Ian Austin steered the next ball to third slip. Jason Gallian set the tone for the Lancashire innings when he followed a lifter from Evans in the day's first over and Graham

Donald still potent

Archer held the first of four fine

catches at second slip, low, two-

handed to his right. In Evans'

second over Mike Atherton played back to another which

lifted and left the bat. He in-

stinctively followed it and was

surely he must be worried by his

Neil Fairbrother was third out

trying to hit Evans off the front

foot over midwicket and skying

a catch to wide mid-on. It became

14 for 4 when Graham Lloyd nib-

bled at another which bounced

and left him. Immediately after

lunch, Mike Watkinson hooked

lack of runs so far this year.

Archer now pouched three in succession at second slip and Lancashire were 52 for 9 before John Crawley, who reached a glowing fifty, and Peter Martin played some excellent strokes, adding 73 for the last wicket. The stroke of the day was a pull for six over midwicket by Crawcaught at first slip. Atherton shuffled off in that apparently unconcerned way of his, but ley off Chris Tolley.

Then it was Nottinghamshire's turn and Wasim Akram and Glen Chapple began by taking three wickets when their score was 13. After tea, Noel Gie was bowled playing no stroke at Wasim but then Paul Johnson, who reached a doughty fifty, and Usman Afzaal fought bravely through to the close, adding 91 in 31 overs on a pitch which had eased under the sun.

Gioucestershire's David 'Syd' Lawrence celebrates having Alec Stewart, of Surrey, caught behind at The Oval yesterday

Battering by bowlers

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from Canterbury Giamorgan 279 Kent 67-2

It is bad enough having to deal with the likes of Wagar Younis and Steve Watkin in their more regular role of strike bowlers. as a sticky session at the end of a fascinating day bore witness, but when you also have to contend with them as run-getters

then it all becomes a bit much. thought they were in for an easy time of it having reduced Glamorgan to 108 for 6, with the Pakistani Test fast bowler making his way out to join Robert Croft. But it took them almost an hour and a half to part the pair. Croft, the first to go for a

stubbornly correct 39. Wagar followed a couple of overs later a tantalising three runs short of his maiden Championship half-century, one of McCague's six victims in the innings. His 61-ball contribution contained some memorable shots, one in particular when he dropped on to one knee before

hauling Paul Strang for six. Then Darren Thomas, again regarded as more useful with li than bat, came in to play a delightful innings, crammed with genuine strokes. He was cruelly out for 46, top edging an

attempted hook. He and Steve Watkin had added 58 for the ninth wicket. a partnership bettered only by that between Croft and Wagar, who put on 63 for the seventh. And still the batting bowlets had not done with Kent. Watkin lashed out while Dean Cosker remained patiently on nought to bring up a second bonus point.

The pacy and fairly ferocious McCague accounted for him, inducing a mis-drive to present Strang, running in from mid-on, him a return of 6 for 75 - his second five-wicket haul in successive Championship matches.

Watkin, on 39, was within sight of his best first-class score when he fell, but he had done enough and did not want to open the bowling exhausted. It did not take him long to get in among the wickets. While Kent's openers, David Fulton and Matthew Walker, struggled to come to terms with Waqar they forgot how good Watkin could be.

Walker's careless hoick skied the ball to Croft coming in from long leg. Fulton, whose first three scoring strokes were all inadvertent, top-edged a hook to Thomas to end an unhappy outing and it was left to Alan Wells, with a clutch of authoritative boundaries to start making inroads on the Glamorgan total.

reports from Edgbaston Yorkshire 233 Warwickshire 64-4

Warwickshire went some way yesterday to endorsing the judgement of those bookmakers who made them the pre-season favourites for the Britannic Assurance title - but then saw their gains devalued as Darren Gough did his best to upstage Allan Donald.

land bowler bent his back in the evening sunshine and was handsomely rewarded. His inswingers proved too much for Nick Knight and David Hemp, who were dismissed in the space of four deliveries in his first two overs and, when Chris Silverwood accounted for Andy Moles. Warwickshire were already in a sorry state.

Gough then stifled Warwickshire's attempts to construct a recovery by adding the wicket of Dominic Ostler with the fourth lbw dismissal of the evening. The home side closed at 64 for 4, compared with which Yorkshire's 233 looked a respectable total. Gough claimed 3 for 12 from his nineover spell.

This rather took the shine off

encouraging day for Warwickshire, hungry again for silver-ware after failing last year to add to the six trophies won between 1993 and 1995. Much of their ontimism about this season is in-

vested in two bowlers, Donald and Ashley Giles - the two, in fact, who inflicted most of the damage on Yorkshire yesterday, claiming four wickets each. Donald, refreshed after spending last year behind the scenes at Edgbaston, is shaping like a man with another formi-

dable season ahead of him,

reason to feel they have one of the Championship's trump cards at their disposal. In his 31st year, Donald looks the supreme athlete still, the grace and rhythm of his bowling one of the current game's finest sights, unless you happen to be batting against him. Warwickshire know they have to make the most of his availability. Next season he will be play-

ing in England - but for South

Africa. Likewise in 1999, in

the World Cup.
Only Michael Vaughan, who hit nine boundaries in his 56. and Darren Lehmann gave Yorkshire's innings real substance, the Australian working hard for more than three hours to make 62 before shouldering arms to Dougie Brown, who deserved his success.

Kent's chance to make amends

chance to avenge their controdefeat of three years ago after being paired with Warwickshire in the quarter-final draw at Lord's

The two sides are scheduled to meet at Canterbury on 27 May in a tie which will rekindle memories of Warwickshire's dramatic bowl-out victory over Kent at Edgbaston in 1994. After the first two days of the contest were lost to heavy rain,

N R Taylor flow b Ahmed C W J Athey low b Parsons K Newell c Parsons b Shine *†P Moores b Ahmed

P W Jarvis c Turner b Shine ... V C Philips liber b Ahmed V J Thurstield not out

Kent yesterday welcomed the the sides were forced into Edgbaston's indoor centre to effect versial Benson and Hedges Cup a result. Kent later protested to the Test and County Cricket Board about Warwickshire's failure to protect the pitch.

The other key match in the draw will take place at Chelmsford, with Essex and Surrey poised to repeat their thrilling NatWest Trophy semi-final of last season at The Oval. Essex triumphed then by four wickets. Leicestershire, the county champions, host Somerset at

Warwickshire v Yorkshire

EDG8ASTON: Warwickshire (4pts) are 64 for 4 in reply to a first-limitings total of 233 by Yorkshire (1). Today: 11.0.

Grace Road, while highly fancied Yorkshire tackle Northamptonshire, last year's beaten finalists, at Headingley to complete the line-up.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Quarter-fine draw (ties to be played 27 May): Leice tershire v Somerset; Yorkshire v Northerm tonshire; Kent v Warwickshire; Essex v Surre Pakistan have lifted their twoyear Test ban on Aamir Sohail after he apologised for making allegations of match-fixing and betting. The ban has been replaced by a fine of 50,000 rupees

Oxford Univ v Worcestershire

TODAY'S

NUMBER

37

res: M .: Kitchen and N A Maliender.

appearance in Britain since the 1995 Open at St Andrews. While 10 years ago The Oxfordshire, venue for last week's

Benson and Hedges, was farmland, Hanbury Manor was a convent for the Faithful Companions of Jesus. The estate provides a historic setting which can be traced back to the Domesday Book. Monty's performance on the

greens of late has been less than saintly, but his day of doom came last Sunday when he shot a last round 81 in the company of the Ryder Cup captain, Seve Ballesteros. At the second hole, Montgomerie took five putts. The Spaniard said nothing until Montgomerie holed from 40 feet at the next. "Ah, four less than the last time," Seve re-

"II'm not playing on the first morning at Valderrama we'll know why," reflected Mont-gomerie. On Tuesday he spent seven hours practising at The Buckinghamshire club with his coach, Denis Pugh. Last night he headed to the putting green to resume a practice routine from his days at Houston Baptist College of holing a hundred twofooters before dinner.

"It's over the last few that the pressure tells. It's like being in the nervous nineties in cricket. If you miss at 98 or 99, you feel rotten about it. I will probably do this every day until the US

Open," Montgomerie said.
This is an important part of the year for the European No 1. He is lagging behind Olazabal. Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam on the money list and faces the Volvo PGA Championship it Wentworth next week and the US Open at Congressional next month. "I feel the PGA is a tournament I should have won by now and I owe it to myself to try and win the US Open," he said.

"But we are nearly in June and I've only had three top-10s. That's no use. The problem has been my chipping and putting. I've been failing on both counts. That puts pressure on me to hit my irons close and that produces bad shots. I've improved for 10 years as a pro and I can't afford to let it slip now."

In contrast to Montgomeric, Figer Woods has had no probiem on the greens, or anywhere else on the course, and the 21year-old is eager to continue his plobal domination in the Byron Nelson Classic which starts to-

day in Irving, Texas.

Woods will play his first competitive round since his recordbreaking US Masters victory at Augusta a month ago and if his practice round on Tuesday is anything to go by, the rest of the field had better be prepared to play for second place again. Woods shot an unofficial 64 and announced he was raring to go after his four-week break. "I'm hitting the ball well, I'm

surprised, I'm hitting it so well, Woods said. "I expect to win this week. I expect to win every tournament I play."
Woods is also looking forward

to next week's Colonial tournament in Fort Worth, where he will come face to face with Fuzzy Zoeller. The 1979 Masters champion touched off a firestorm of controversy in Augusta when he said he hoped Woods wouldn't serve "fried chicken and collard greens," at next year's

Masters champions dinner. "Td like to ask him what exactly he meant," Woods said. "I want to have a heart to heart talk with him and find out what he was thinking."

Happy start for Lampard Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY recorts from Windsor

Di Lampard won the first show jumping contest of this year's Royal Windsor Horse Show when she rode Jenny Willment's chestnut stallion, Audacity, to victory in yesterday's Land Rover Grade A Jumping.

Lampard acquired the ride as the result of an "out of the blue" telephone call from the owner last year. "The first time I jumped him I loved him," she said of the horse who had been the victor of two other contests with her before winning by the comfortable margin of 4.79sec. Admittedly, some of Lam-

pard's rivals were out for a quiet school at the start of this five-day meeting. She was, nev-ertheless, delighted with this proof that the stallion's education was progressing on the right lines when she defeated Geoff Luckett on Clover Chief

and Tim Stockdale on Halida. The brothers Damian and Nick Charles won the later Petplan Family Pair Relay. They had looked in danger of defeat at the hands of Michael Whitaker and his nephew Robert (son of John) until Virtual Village Silver Cinder incurred a foursecond penalty with Robert when he had the last fence

Results, Digest, page 29

Britannic Assurance County Championship (First day of four) Essex v Durbam CHELMSFORD: Durism (4pts) are 122 for 3 in reply to a first-image total of 237 by Essex (1). Today: 11.0.

by cases (11, Today: 11.0. Essex wor toss ESSEX - First innings G A Gooch c Lews b Killeen *F J Pricard c Speight b Brown N Hussain lbw b Brown

N Hussan Ibw b Brown
S G Law c Speight b Weller
R C Iran' b Brown
A P Graysho c Speight b Killeen
D R Law c Foster b Walker
Hyenr c Speight b Killeen
M C liott c Borling b Killeen
A P Cowan Ibw b Brown
P M Such not out

To Bat: TM P Speight, M J Foster, J Bolling, S J E Brown, N Killeen, A Walker. Bowfing: Nott 11-5-12-0; Cowan 15-7-32-2; Irani 5-1-20-0; DR Law 6-0-41-1; Such 2-1-2-0 Umpires: A G T Whitehead and K E Palmer.

Hampshire v Loicestershire SOUTHAMPTON: Loicestershire (4pts) are 2 for 0 in reply to a first-innings total of 285 by Hampshire (2), Today: 11_0

Total (100.5 ov Patt 1-2, 2-18, 3-104, 4-144, 5-150, 6-158, 7-198, 8-264, 9-286.

what had until then been an ng: Udai 1-1-0-0. Jumpires: D J Constant and G Sharp.

Fall: 1-37, 2-37, 3-71, 4-88, 5-106, 6-108, 7-171, 8-191, 9-249.

Felts 1-20, 2-33.

To Bat: N J Uong, M A Eathern, M V Florning, P A Strang, "S A Marsh, M J McCague, D W Headley,"
Bowllag: Wager 6-1,-42-1; Watkin 7-2-191; Thomas 4-1-5-0.
Uniplicat J C Baldystone and J F Steele.

cashire v Nottingha

OLD TRAFFORD: Nottinghametime (49th) are 128 for 4 in reply to a first-impligational of 125 by Lancashire (0). Today: 11.0.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Fall: 1-0, 2-1, 3-11, 4-14, 5-33, 6-33, 7-47, 8-52, 9-52, Bowling: Exars 16-6-40-6; Franks 10-0-37-1; Tolky 8-0-35-3; Bowen 2-0-8-0. NOTITING/HAMISHIRE - First Invings PR POBERT & Chapter 19 Chapter I Atzaal not out

Middlesex y Derbyshire LORD'S: Derbyshire (4pts) are 123 for 5 in reply to a first-lumings total of 146 by Middlesex (0). Today: 11.0.

Middlesex (U), sump.
Middlesex (V) toss
MIDDLESEX ~ First tenings
P N Weekes c Kridden D DeFreites
J H Kallis c Adams D DeFreites
M R Ramoraless c Jones b DeFreites
M R Ramoraless c Jones b DeFreites

Freitas, D E Malcolm. Bowling: Hewitz 12-5-25-0; Fraser 12-3-29-2; Weeks 1-0-2-1; Johnson 9-2-28-1; Kelis 6-1-13-0; Tuthell 6-1-19-1. Umpires: 8 Dudleston and G I Burgess.

M T E Pairce (but b Rose K Greenfield (bw b Ahme

Somerset v Sussex A M Smith. Bowling: M P Bicknell 17-3-59-1; Benjamin 18-4-520; BC Holicoke 13-6-25-0; Tudor 12-2-42-3; A J Holicoke 2-1-6-1; Shahid 1-0-1-

by Yorkshire (1). Today: 11.0.
Esser won toss
YORKSHIRE — First Indings
A McGrath c Frost b Donald
D Submann b Brown
B Parker lbw b Giles
C White c Frost b Giles
C White c Frost b Giles
C White c Frost b Giles
E W Sterwood c Welch b Giles
D Sterminton b Donald
E W Sterwood c Welch b Giles
O Sterm b Giles
Tass (017, 1011, 1061)
bat (78 evers)
E 1.0.2-00 A A Khan b Ahmed M A Robinson c & b Ahmed Bowling: Caddick 21-5-43-0; Shine 20-2-75-2; Ahmed 31-12-70-6; Rose 15-5-32-1; Par-Trescothack not out
D Bowler not out
ras (b1, nb6)
al (for 1, 11 overs) Total (78 evers) 233
Falt 1-10, 2-40, 3-113, 4-154, 5-154, 6170, 7-176, 8-200, 9-233.
Bowling: Doraid 19-5-55-4; Welch 18-4-460; Smail 9-2-27-0; Gles 24-8-54-4; Brown 19-4-23.
WARWICKSHIEE – First lonings J Holioake c Ball b Young C Holioake c Wright b Smit Rescribe c Ball b Young P Bicknell b Smith Total (for 5, 63 evers) Fell: 1-4, 2-82, 3-128, 4-135, 5-175 To Belt TH C Hencock, M C / Belt D V Lev

Giles, A A Donald. Bowling: Gough 9-5-12-3; Silverwood 8-3-28-1; Hamilton 5-2-14-0; Stemp 2-0-6-0 Umpires: J H Hants and B J Mayer Other first-class matches Cambridge Univ v Northants 257, 7-271, 8-271, 9-250.
Did not bet: EJ Haw.
Did not bet: EJ Haw.
Bouring: Hughes 18-4-60-1; Innes 14-5-330; Perberthy 15-2-75-0; Sales 5-2-12-0;
STEDE 22-9-33-3; Brown 19-2-6-50-4.
NORTHAMPTORSHIRE - First lightings

Extras 103, 102)
Total (for 0, 13 overs) 38
To Sat: M A Wagn, C G R Lightfoot, J A G
Futton, P G Morgan, C Patel, A P Scril, L G
Bucharen, J M M Aveils, G J Wright.
Bowling, Shenyer 5-2-10-0; Crapman 5-210-0; Thomas 2-0-13-0; Ravmstey 1-1-0-0
Limpires: J H Hampshire and J Lloyds. The percentage of people planning to watch the FA Cup final on BBC1 who find the pundits' half-time chat." not

very interesting", according to an Audience Selection survey. Only 20 per cent find it "very interesting"; for 39 per cent it depends on who is talking

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Ruud Gullit will be presented with a new contract this summer - regard-less of Chelsea's result in Saturday's FA Cup final against Middles-

Gullit, who adapted his playing contract and extended it by a year when he succeeded Glenn Hoddle as manager last summer, will be offered another deal as soon as he returns from a post-final club tour and personal holiday.

"We have mentioned it but neither of us wants to talk about it until after the final. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, said yesterday. "He'll probably go on holiday then, but we will talk to him when he comes back ".

Although Gullit has been linked with a number of clubs, including his former team. Miian, and his boyhood favourites, Feyenoord, Chelsea are confident the Dutchman will stay.

Bates cited three reasons for this. "One: who can afford him? Two: where will he live? He and his girlfriend are very happy here, he likes the style of London. Three: what can he do elsewhere that he can't do at Chelsea? In Italy the presidents interfere, he wouldn't last long under that. People talk about Milan, but look at the state of their pitch. I've walked

We never doubted Ruud

FA CUP FINAL COUNTDOWN

Glenn Moore finds Chelsea's chairman delighted with his

manager's first year

when Glenn Hoddle left," Bates added. "We had been talking to him for a year and got to know the guy and he is something different. He was an influence behind the scenes - even under

"Most player-managers fail because, instead of working 10 hours a week, they are now working 60 - they can't cope. A football club today is not like it was 20 years ago. it's a big busi-ness. So we [Bates and Colin Hutchinson, Chelsea's longserving managing director] de-cided to let him concentrate on his playing and coaching. We organised others to look after the administration and deal with the

press and players' contracts. That arrangement started with Hoddle - getting him in was the first stage. He made a great number of changes at all levels and he bought in Mark Hughes and Gullit. He made some mistakes, bought some bad players, but that was the platform. When he went to the England job, Ruud took it on.

They have different styles, Glenn was into reflexology, alwould be the man to take over ternative medicine, a dietician. Gullit is into fitness, he bought in Ade Mafe, and a different style of coaching. He bombed out the dictician, reflexologist

"Gullit said to me: The players rebelled against the dictician, telling them what they should cat. If I say 'you must eat this', they won't eat at the training ground, they will go eisewhere and get it. You have to get them to realise the only person who can look after themselves is themself. If they don't realise that, they won't be in the team'."

Bates added: "Some make the transition from player to manager easily, others find it a problem. John Hollins found it hard. As a player, he was one of the ones that took the mick out of the manager behind his back. Now his team-mates were doing it to him. Ruud has not had a problem like that. "He's done two important

things. He's shown no favours in team selection. When Dennis Wise was playing crap, he dropped him. The message was: Even if Dennis is captain, he will not be picked if he is not playing well."

Then, when Gullit himself was injured, Craig Burley took his place. He played well and, when Gullit was fit, instead of putting himself back in the team, he said: 'Craig has been playing well, so he stays in. That sent out the message that no player had the right to walk into the team. If he was not guaranteed a place, no one was."



England slip down world rankings

England have slipped one place to 13th in the latest list of international rankings released yesterday by Fifa, world foot-

ball's governing body.

The fall is mainly the result of defeat in their World Cup qualifier against Italy at Wembley in February, with the Italians climbing four places to

Brazil, World Cup winners in 1994, still head the list, followed by the European champions, Germany, and Denmark, who have risen from sixth place at the end of last year.

Scotland remain in 29th position while the Republic of Ireland are down eight places to 44th, Northern Ireland climb one to 64 and Wales slip three places to 83. Australia, who are now man-

aged by the former England coach, Terry Venables, have managed one of the most dramatic improvements, rising from 50th place last year to

34th.

FITA WORLD RANKINGS (Position at end of 1996 in brackets): 1 Brazi (1) 66.15pt; 2 Germany (2) 64.02. 3 Denmark (6) 62.03; 4 France (3) 61.75; 5 Spain (6) 61.43; 6 bay (10) 61.37, 7 Nerheards (9) 60.52; 8 Crech Republic (5) 60.06; 9 Romans (16) 59.22; 10 Rissas (7) 59.10; 11 Colombia (4) 58.41; 12 Neuro (11) 57.93; 13 England (12) 57.4; 14 Baghan (15) 56.41; 15 Norwa; (14) 55.83; 16 Portugal (13) 54.79; 17 Stocket (30) 54.99; 18 Jean (22) 54.69; 19 Norwa; (27) 53.90; 20 Savden (17) 53.73; 21 Argentina (22) 53.64; 22 Portugal (38) 53.36; 23 Zambia (20) 53.34; 24 Turssas (23) 53.12; 25 South Aloca (17) 52.78; 26 United States (18) 52.71; 27 Chie (26) 51.99; 28 Crustina (24) 51.65; 29 Scotland (29) 51.31; 30 Saud Arabet (37) 50.16; Selected: 34 Australia (50) 48.55; 44 Republic of Iretand (36) 45.36; 63 Northern Iretand (64) 40.45; 83 Wales (60) 33.90.

Parma prepare for Milan and Juventus

Second-placed Parma will need to beat Milan at home tonight to keep up the pressure on the Italian Serie A leaders,

The rescheduled game comes just three days before Parma travel to Turin to play Juventus in what is effectively a potential championship

Both Parma and Juventus won last Sunday to leave the four-point gap between them unaltered, with four games to

the relegation battlers Piacenza tonight but regardless of how the leaders fare in that match, Parma know they need to defeat Milan to retain an outside chance of winning the

"We're a side full of class players, we can't give up now," said Parma's French defender. Lilian Thuram.

"We have to beat Milan and go on to Turin in a winning frame of mind. That's what we have to do because, anyway, against Juventus we've nothing

Parma are expected to start with the same formation which ran out easy 3-0 winners against Vicenza on Sunday, with the attack again being led by Enrico Chiesa and the Argentinian Hernan Crespo. scorer of all three goals against

Their visitors, Milan, are unlikely to be in a charitable mood since they badly need points to get back into contention for a Uefa Cup quali-

but four points outside the Uefa qualifying zone.

Milan appear to be recovering some modest form after a disastrous season which saw them eliminated from the Champions' League and the Italian title contest by Christ-

Milan's 3-1 home win against relegation-bound Reggiana on Sunday followed draws against Piacenza and Udinese

fying spot.

Milan come into the game

Milan come into the game

Sacchi, however, expects a different ficult game, saying, "Parma are field."

simply a much stronger side than us. Strangely, they're even stronger now that they have sold off one or two class

Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov of Barcelona and Gianfranco Zola of Chelsea were both sold by Parma in the past year. Milan expect to field a

strong-looking side featuring Liberian George Weah and Roberto Baggio in attack, with Frenchman Marcel Desailly, Croat Zvonimir Boban and Demetrio Albertini in mid-

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, could suffer another setback to his defensive options for the World Cup Group Four meeting with Belarus in Minsk next month.

Defensive

problems

for Brown

Brown has already lost the regular pairing of Blackburn's Colin Hendry, who is to have a groin operation, and Colin Calderwood of Tottenham, who is suspended. Now the Rangers defender Alan McLaren is a concern not only for the World Cup tie but the friendlies against Wales at Kilmarnock on 27 May and in Malta on 1 June. McLaren is to see a specialist about the knee injury which caused him to miss Euro

Brown already looks set to include Christian Dailly of Derby and Brian McAllister of Wimbledon in his plans for the friendlies. Both are uncapped and two other candidates could be Steven Pressley of Dundee United and David Weir of Hearts. The injured midfielder, Billy McKinlay of Blackburn, is Brown's other doubt. The Scotland manager will name his squad for all three games to-

League to replace transfers by 2000

The Football League vesterday appealed for a unified plan of action to help replace Britain's existing transfer system.

The League is seeking a collective agreement between itself, the Premier League and the Professional Footballers' Association in a bid to introduce much-needed changes in the wake of the Bosman ruling.

A special working party from the League has made a number of recommendations to form the basis of an agreement which they want to see in operation from July 2000. The timescale has been suggested to make sure lower league clubs, who must rely on transfer fees to keep affoat, have enough time to take the changes into account. The Football League chairr navio sueco: "This transitionary three-year period will be a major lifeline

to a number of smaller clubs." The Football League working party recommendations are: 1) Notice of the demise of the current transfer system is needed. The new provisions should

come into place from 1 July 2000. From then, players will be free to move at the end of their contract (subject to No 3). 2) A five-year training and development scholarship/apprenticeship should be developed to run from age 16 to 21 with the following provisions:
a) Performance break claus-

es at two, three and four years with compensation payable to the player if he is released. b) Players able to join the

scholarship/apprenticeship during the five-year period providing any player is given two years before a performance break clause is introduced. c) Scholarship/apprenticeship would not be compulsory.

3) Existing re-engagement rules to continue to apply for players moving at the end of their contracts up to age 24, and compensation would be payable in respect of training and development, to be assessed by tribunal if clubs unable to agree.

develop a central development fund to provide for compensation for the continued development of players beyond age 24. Payments from this fund would he assessed at the end of a season or a given period and would in no way interfere with individual player movement.

5) A working party set up to review current standard players' contracts along with the regulations affecting players to accommodate the changes.

sensitive to religious customs." of officials for the US Soccer Raj had played with the tur-Federation, said rules allow ban throughout the season with-"those bound by religious law

a 1001ball maich in New Jersey. in the United States, because he was wearing a turban will be able to rejoin his team-mates when the game is replayed. Officials conceded on Thesday that a referee made a mis-

take on Sunday when he refused to let Raj Thapar, from West Orange, NJ, play if he wore a turban to cover his hair as prescribed by the Sikh religion.

"I think the referee was a lit-tle insensitive to the situation," Bob Katz, the president of the

A 13-year-old Indian boy who board of trustees for the Moun-was prohibited from playing in taintop League of West Orange. The only exception that I know special needs – but Katz said gion, and that's wrong. No othsaid. "I think he needs to be educated a little bit and be more

out any questions from officials before the referee, Al Scarmato, banned him from wearing it at the match in Highland Park, NJ. Raj's team, one of 11 fielded by Katz's organisation, lost

2-0.
"To my knowledge, there is nothing to be worn on the head

World Cup. Rowell's contract is

up for renewal this August but

he has yet to be included in ne-

goniations with the Rugby Foot-

ball Union about his future. "In terms of a new contract,

joy that pressure and I respond to it. I had it when I was

coach at Bath for 17 years so it

England are without 18 se-

Rowell said

used to."

safety side, but it was a mistake. It should be corrected - and corrected soon."

Vincent Mauro, the director

Over-zealous referee shows red card to turban

to wear those head coverings, usually a turban or a yarmulke." Mauro added: "I don't know what happened with this particular referee. He erred on the

Mauro also said that leagues

that had been done at the be ginning of the season. Earl Fielder, the president of

the Mid-New Jersey Youth Association, has ordered the game to be replayed. Raj said he was happy with the decision. His mother was attending for the first time last Sunday - Mother's Day in the United States - with family friends, and the referee's decision was especially hurtful, he said.

"I was humiliated, insultwhatsoever," Scarmato told The and coaches need to make ed," Raj said. "I couldn't play

objections." Tony Cullin, the state's youth referee administrator, said that some officials get "over-zealous" for legal reasons when it comes

er rei nad anv

to what players can wear. "These things seem to come out in certain areas around the state." Cullin said. "A referee once said eyeglasses aren't safe. and he was afraid of being sued. My answer was if be's afraid of getting sued, he shouldn't be a referee anyway."

Rugby League

The St Hetens coach, Shaun McRae, is ruing the timing of Ireland's match against France after losing his in-form stand-off forminy Martyn, for tomorrow's TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: International match: France (24) 30 Ireland (15) 30. Peanex Who Devecto 2, Gorde 2, Tellec; Goale Duize 4, Strous; Ireland: Tries Martin 2, Compun, Forster, Loues, Richard Smith; Soals Commonated 3, (4,260).

Rugby Union SUPER LEAGUE: New South Wales 20 New Zealand Residents 15.

The number of potential challengers for America's Cup 2000 was boosted to 18 from 10 countries as the deadline fell in Auckland yesterday. Only one of them will win the right to meet the detending Team New Zealand in a best-of-nine match starting 28 February 2000.

SRITTIO
SUBMER SRAND TOURNAMENT (Tokyo)
Fourth day of 15: Rico (von 3, lost 1) bit Nimourn (2-2); Konishiu (2-2) bit Yernato (1-3);
Asahyuzlar (4-0) bit Tochinorada (2-2); Habinaji (2-2) bit Hamanoshiva (1-3); Gojoo (2-2)
bit Dasshi (0-4); Kotonya (3-1) bit Narilo (2-2);
Ribalachidoki (2-2) bit Germa (1-3); Shibishma
(2-2) bit Kotonoveka (2-2); Higmourni (3-1) bit forthazarra (3-1); Kotonissurra (3-1) bit Adifferia (1-3); Ognishid (4-0) bit Asanovella (2-2);
Tamalassura (3-1) bit Mitozumi (0-4); Asanosho
(2-2) bit Musoshman (2-2) bit Motonishiri (1-3);
Musoshman (2-2) bit Tosanoumi (2-3); Talianonami (2-3) bit Tosanoumi (2-3); Talianonami (2-3

The Hopman Cup mixed team tournament will remain in Perth for at least another five years, following a new sponsorship deal announced yesterde Hyundai, the car manufacturer.

Hyundeli, the cer manufacturer.

Tallan Open Meetr's Troutendament (Rosse)
Singles, Rest round: T Haas (Ger) bt M Gustasson (Sout) 3-6-6-4-7: P Rather (Aus) bt F
Amrithe (Sp) 8-1-3-6-6-4-7: P Rather (Aus) bt F
Amrithe (Sp) 8-1-3-6-6-4; D Sout) by M D Musstitle 4-6-7-7-6; G Ingelsent (Cons) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-2-6-7-6-4; M Ros (Colle) bt O
Campuress (t) 6-3-7-5; S Brustern (Sp) bt H
Gurny (Ang) 5-1-6-4; J Courier (US) bt A Portas(Sp) 7-6-8-2; M Lerson (Swe) bt T Johansson
(Swe) 7-6-6-3; A Correte (Sp) bt A Boetsch (Fr)
6-2-6-3.

Dt A Gessi (Ez Rep.) 6-0 6-3, Third round: S Grat Karj tit R Dragome (Rom) 6-3 6-2. LTA SPRING SATELLIER INEM'S MASTERS (Cand-III) escoad round: R Lavergre (P) bt I Nastruder (Aut) 6-1 6-4. Quarter-threats) Chaumn (P) bt D Sepation (GB) 6-3 3-4 6-52. Septidud (GER 6-3 3-6 G-2.
WPLSH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S OPEN
(Cartality Singless, first resents R Grande (til to taA Gaze (July 7-5 B-2; C Torrers-Valler (Sp) at 10
Chiedrona (Cz Rep) 3-6 G-4 6-1; C Orden 602 Rep)
to Y Yoshada (Jeophy 5-7 6-3 6-2; A DechaumeBalle (Fr) ot 1. Richamona (Cz Rep) 7-5 5-0; D van

Roost (Beh bt M Tu itt5) 6-3 6-3; P Langross (Cz-Righ bt A Gaseidon (Mex 6-3 6-3; P Begeron (Ger) tx J Waterscoe (US); R Zhunkowa (Slovak) bi V Marethnet Ren 6-1 7-6; S Dopter (Aut) bt S Smith (UN) 6-2 6-2; V Runno-Pascual (Sp) bt A Elberood (Aus) 3-6 7-6; F Lanno-Pascual (Sp) bt A Elberood (Aus) 3-6 7-6; F Grossmen (US) bt S Cecthrii (D 6-4 6-2; M Oremans (Herli) bi M Marasia (Auf) 6-4 6-3; M Wintersger-Jones (US) bt 1; Pona (Sp) 6-0 6-0; S Pitherski (Pr) bt G Leon Gross (Sp) 6-3 8-2; A Carlsson (Swet) bt J Pullin (UN) 6-4 6-2.

Rowell calls up Redman does not know whether England require his services for the 1999

The 32-year-old Bath lock. Nigel Redman, has been called up for England's tour of Argentina as a replacement for the Newcastle forward Garath Archer, who has a neck injury. Another possible last-minute

candidate for the six-match tour was Leicester's Matt Poole, but he was unable to take any part in yesterday's training session at Bisham Abbey because of a wrist injury. Redman won the last of his 18 caps against South Africa in

Cape Town three years ago and has recently been out of the Bath first team while he concentrated on coaching the forwards. His experience will be crucial in a tour party of 16 uncapped players and he also has the benefit of having toured Argentina with England in 1990. The England coach, Jack Rowell, said: "Nigel is fit and fresh, and is very positive about making the trip."
Rowell added that he still

Fowler to withdraw.

Athletics

Ben Johnson, the disgraced Canadian sprinter, has launched a court action to sprinter, has sunched a court action to win the right to race again and by to become the world's fastest men. The suit alleges that Johnson's 1993 ban from internetional competition, after testing positive for an illegal sterold, violated his ability to make a living.

I am not anticipating anything," NATIONAL LEAGUE: Présdeiphia 3 St. Luis 2; San Francisco 4 Consynia 1; Montrea 7 San Diego 3; Plonda 11, Albrira 5; New York Mets 4 Hous-ton 3; Chicago Guba 2 Los Angeles 1. "Strange things can happen and there are now parallels between rugby union and soccer Deckethali in that the coaches are under considerable pressure. But I en-

MBA Play-offs second round: Western Con-ference sent-finale: Sectile 100 Houston 94 (Houston lead hest-of-seven series 3-2), Eastern Conference semi-finale: Charge 107 Health 92 (Chicago with best-of-seven series 4-1).

is something which I feel I am Terry Norths is suring Don King for \$64.5m (£) and asking the court nulify a contract that his manager allegedly misled him into signing. The contract glues Norris, the World Boding Council weiterweight champion, "only litusory compensation" for a championship matrix and binds him to king for with: nior players because of the Lions tour of South Africa, and 16 uncapped players feature in the squad for South America. Eng-land have already drafted in the match and binds him to King for virtu-Sale second-rower Dave Baldwin

CHELARD'S 1996" INTERNATIONAL PROG-RANGE Ther 21 May (reserve FH 22): Eng-land v South Africa, first Tesero Triply One-day remarkant (The One). Set 23 May to reserve day): England v South Africa, mound Tesero

Cricket

Martin Bayfield and John

to roust him along to ensure a ton Rated Handicap.

LAST NIGHT'S RACING RESULTS

HUNTINGDON

6.09: 1 ARRIOLEY HOUSE (D Monta) 5-1; ** Mentical Popul 7-2; 3, Script 14-1, 3-1

** Spiring Bridge, 11 ring, 9, 7, (R Curts), 100; £8.10; £2.40; £2.10; £3.80. DP: £28.10 CSP; £21.36. Thos: £21.4.37. Tho: £3.10 CSP; £21.36. Thos: £21.4.37. Thos: £21.4.37. Thos

6.35 1 ARDENT LOVE (R Johnson) 7-4 5-38 1. ARDENT LOVE IN CORRECT STATES AND SESSION 15-1: 3. Forthelden Motors 100-30. 9 res. No. 10. (D. Nicholson). Tokes 52-50; 51-50, 53-50, 51-60. DF: 528-40. CSF: £25.67. These: £19-25. The: £11-50, Non Rustier Amile Ruth. HOU: £11,50, Non Runner, Arnie Ruth.

7.05: 1. SHAME (Michael Brenner) 15-8:
2. Louiseaths 3-1; 2. Telmas Systems 12-1. 5-ren. 5-4 hav Druchmond Warrior 0. 14.
21. U O'Shen). Total: £3.20; £1.50, £2.30.
0F: £4.00. CSF; £7.66. Non Runners: Bak Tergier, Narfield.

PERTH 6.20: 1. SUPPLEME SOVIET (B Storey) 6-4 fag: 2. Hand Of Storey 7-1; 3. Printy Thyre 40: 1. 10 rap. 3, 11. (A Whilers), Tota: 52.30; 51.70; 51.10, 53.40, DP. \$8.80, CSP. 511.52 Tays: 57.50 £11:53, Tho: £37.60.

8.50-1. SLOTANI/COUE (R Durwood) 7-4 (sv; 2. Fern Leeder 3-1; 3. Culture Lake 4-1. 8 no. 2; 30. (G.Richerds), Tota: £2.20; £1.20; £1.80; £1.502; DF: £5.20. CSF:

and the Coventry lock Danny

Grewcock after injuries forced

£10,55. Trick £8.60. Non-Runner: Malta Man. Bodyguard left a big questionmark over has chances of at York yesterday. Hugely imof 2,000 Guineas winner Zafonic had to work surprisingly hard to justify odds of 2.7 in the Grosvenor Casino Sheffield Bodyguard squeezed through a and a half length victory in the gap on the stands' rail and had Grosvenor Casinos Hamble-

one and three-quarter length verdict over Out Like Magic. Trainer Paul Cole refused to be downhearted by the performance and still hopes the colt will tackle the Coventry Stakes graduating to the top class af- at Royal Ascot. He said, "When ter a far from convincing victory he hit the front, Richard said he was pulling up with him and the pressive on his debut, the son experience will have done him good. I'm sure there's still better to come and he may have still just needed it. Royal Ascot remains on the cards." Quinn Stakes. Richard Quinn was also struck with Centre Stalls forced to get serious before who quickened well to seal a two

Trophy One-day international (Clid Trofford). Sum 24 May (seasone day Mon 25): England v South Africa, that Tesseo Trophy One-Day International Cheadingley). There 4-Mon B Junet England v South Africa, that Tesseo Trophy One-Day International Cheadingley). There 4-Mon B Junet England v South Africa. South Africa. South Africa. South Africa. South Africa. South Africa. On the South Africa. There 5-Mon 10 Jugost England v South Africa. There 6-Mon 10 Jugost England v South Africa. The South Africa of South Africa. The South Africa of South Africa of South Africa. South Africa of Labout (Front Bridge). Son 18 August (preserve day Med 13): England v South Africa. The Month Control Control

estrianism EQUIO-STYTHIN From

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW: Lead Rover
inde A Lamping: 1-Rudecty II Di Lampari) clear,
66.02sc; 2 Clover Chell (B Luckett) clear, 70.81;
3 Halder (F. Stouddels) daer, 73.98, Petplan Fam-By Pair Reiny: 1. Sturfande Pachet (D Charles)
surs Sturfands (Lucky N Certest) 72.18se; 2 Ba-timore (M Whitaket) and Virtual Village Silver Croder (R Winsaket) 72.78; 3 Popakie U Annett) and

Continue Marchine (N Moon) 81.85.

Football

Presson North End have given a free transfer to the former Eventon and Black-burn goalkeeper, Bobby Wimms, the club captain Ian Bryson and the experienced full-back Kevin Gage. Jimmy Case, the former Liverpool mid-field player and Brighton and Hove Au-bion manager, has been named player-manager of the Dr Martens League club, Bashley.

League Club, Bashley.
TOUR NATCH: San Jose Clash 1 Riselved 44)
Ason Was 1 (Chingle 37).
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Farewell to Release Park methor Sunderland 1 Lectroo (2. Teetinonial matches (Francis Beneills Southernoton 7 Lavies McMerceny N 7, Tuesday Winterday N-seed 3 Rangers 3. Winstantiand Kent League First Division: Cray Wanderson () Neron Bay 1: Crokenhall 1. Sales Genen 3; Greenwash Brough 1 Deal 0. North West Goundles Floodill Truyby Shall Neurosis Town O Parrigh 1. Portions Laugue Presping Oblisions Manchester (VM of Stote).

LITTLEWOODS: Trebte chance: 22pts 2568,723.40, 21 £973.75, 29 £71.20, 19 £11.25, Half-time (22pts mad £8,284.45, Four classes £3.42, 50 homes £3.30, Six awaye £18.60 (paid on five).

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football FA YOU'RE CUP FINA

Rugby League SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Prescot (7.30). ELITE LEAGUE Insulet v Poole (7.30). WORLD CHAMPIONSKIP: Emish set (Sheffeld, 7.45).

EQUESTRIANISME Royal Windoor Horse Show, GOLP: English Open (Harbury Marcot, Herbs); WPGA Tour Players' Classic (Macclessield).

Souvenir Special FREE GIANT Y WEMBLEY'97 on sale at newsagents now £2,95 FREE 1970 FA Cup Final video when you subscribe. Call 01454 620070

Ken Bates tells Glenn Moore,

England blow as Pallister is ruled out

Football

ANDREW MARTIN

Glenn Hoddle learned yesterhave withdrawn Gary Pallister from England's summer schedule. The central defender will will need a cartilage removed.

The 31-year-old will now miss the friendly with South Africa at Old Trafford on 24 May, the World Cup qualifier in Poland a week later and the four-nation tournament in

Pallister's withdrawal comes

will not be competing for his country this summer is Denis Irwin, who has pulled out of the Republic of Ireland squad for

Sunday morning as "simply not

Boro's boy from Brazil

SIMON TURNBULL

Alex Ferguson would have loved it, just loved it. Down at the Riverside Stadium, where the Manchester United manager celebrated the clinching of the Premiership last season, Juninho suggested that his imminent departure from Middlesbrough would not necessarily take him out of English football.

For the third time since Middleshrough's relegation to the Nationwide League on Sun-day, Juninho made it clear that he is not prepared to risk losing a place in Brazil's World Cup squad by spending next season as a second-class football citizen in England.

Spain appears to be the most likely destination for the man who will be wearing the Middlesbrough No 10 shirt against Chelsea in the FA Cup final on Saturday, though he dismissed reports that he is to fly out for And to be in the Brazil squad talks with Atletico Madrid on you have to play in good teams."

No. 3299. Thursday 15 May

ACROSS

Occasional problems with

Cook's undergarment is

of uncommonly large

Is pensioner following

11 Lower Austrian costume

12 Footplatemen stopping

13 Court official admitting

14 New instances not ceas-

16 Dreamer quick to defend

19 Try getting police to back exercise (5)

saint of doubtful authen- 5

ing to appear (9)

soman to old city (5)

TV programme? (4) Head for Missouri, enter-

short of railway town (4)

size! (6)

ı 101

France in June. The 22-year-old Liverpool defender Dominic Matteo is likely to take Pallis-

day that Manchester United less than 24 hours after the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans. said he wants to pull Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler out of England's forthundergo surgery tomorrow af-ter results of a scan revealed he Fowler out of England's forth-coming games as both players

also require surgery.

Another United player who

Britannia still rules for

But Ferguson, one of the many admirers the 24-year-old from São Paulo has won in his 18 months here, will have been encouraged by Juninho's de-clared interest in staying in the Premiership. Asked if he would be interested in joining another English club, he replied: "Yeah! I have adapted to English football. I know how to play

> "I like the way the English play. It's a very fast game, attack all the time. The chances come faster for you. I think it has made me a better player. I am a more complete player now. I have not decided about my future yet. I have to talk with Bryan Robson [Middlesbrough's manager] and with Steve Gibson [the club chairman]. But I have to think of my career. It is most important for me to be in the Brazil squad.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

21 Some do Pushkin's poeti-

25 Injured goalie a friend of 6

Lily demands a drink (4)

Stick notice at this point

Constance? (10)

etc., as amended (8)

DOWN

women featured in the

Exhibit on offer (9)

papers (7)

worker (8-7)

Fearlessness shown by old 17

Difficulty with mosphise department initially (5)
Passing ball to central de- 22
Cormer highway 24 Difficulty with hospital

fender - former highway

cal work (4) 23 Partner going into French-man's pad in town (4-1-5)

ing quickly by railway (10) 28 Particulars given in press. 8

qualifier against Liechtenstein at Lansdowne Road. The 31-year-old defender is troubled by

a groin injury.

Better news for Ryan Giggs. who will be fit for the start of next season following precautionary surgery against a hernia

Controversy continues to dog Alex Ferguson, whose descrip-tion of the Premier League as a "tiddlywinks league" has incurred the ire of its chief executive, Peter Leaver. The United manager made the damning assessment after the kick-off of Coventry's vital last match of the season at Tottenham was de-layed. He was also critical of the League last month when it refused to alleviate United's congested fixture list.

Leaver said: "It seems that Manchester United feel they should be given consideration which other clubs may not get, but I have to be even-handed." Blackburn Rovers' next for-

eign acquisition could be the Borussia Dortmund striker Stéphane Chapuisat. Blackburn yesterday offered £4.2m for the Swiss international, who is likely to be sold by the European Slaven Bilic arrived at Ever-

ton yesterday following a £4.5m transfer from West Ham, making him football's most expensive defender. The 28-year-old Croat has signed a five-year contract.
The Bradford City manager.

Chris Kamara, is attempting to ture Peter Beardsley from Newcastle United, with the added bait of a coaching role for the former England international. Sol Campbell yesterday com-

mitted his future to Tottenham when he signed a new four-year contract, ending speculation that the gifted defender may leave White Hart Lane.

Chocolate cake that is as-

sociated with Ivy League

Old Mexican busy follow-

Hertfordshire community

A parish priest gaining

Archbishop's praise (7)

Overall marked by sauce

Endeavour to obtain em-

Land, for instance, anti-

discrimination group will

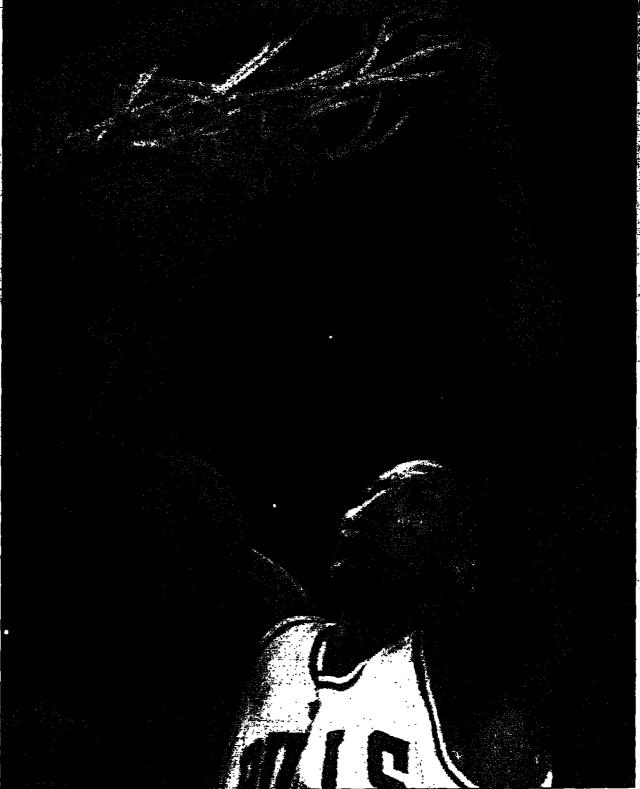
ployment (7) City investment? (5)

establishment (7)

ing street guide? (5) One who'd make you

vell, operating (7)

still in step? (9)



Scottie Pippen rises to the occasion to help the Chicago Bulls beat the Atlanta Hawks 107-92 on Tuesday to cruise through to the Eastern Conference finals. The defending NBA champions won the series 4-1

Banks' 'ridiculous' England plan

This immediately conjured the mouth-watering, if far-

of the league teams, you can play for the country as well," he said.

the best foreigners.

Mr Banks' extraordinary suggestions drew a guarded re-

chief executive, said: "The FA's reaction to such comments would be entirely and wholly sceptical. I'm sure the four British associations have similar views, and indeed I think I would say the same for Uefa and

Cesare Maldini, the coach to the Italian national side, was more forthright. Describing the idea as "ridiculous", he said: "If you follow through what this man is saying, then Paul Ince

ought to play for Italy.
"This minister has probably only been in his post for a short period of time and doesn't know anything about sport yet. He might be a fan, but obviously he hasn't been briefed about the football world. On certain subjects it's better to think before

Banks admitted his ideas were not Government policy. but added: "Let's discuss it. Why don't we talk about it? We're in

things worth discussing. It's no good saying it's rubbish, we can't do it. Why shouldn't we discuss it? My role here is to be a bit challenging and controversial and to act as a catalyst. Banks' capacity to be "a bit

challenging" has already seen him removed by Downing Street from his weekly slot on a radio phone-in, on the grounds that its was too wideranging for a Sports Minister.

His latest outburst, clearly within his brief, hardly received a ringing endorsement from Downing Street vesterday. "Picking the England side is a matter for Glenn Hoddle. Tony Banks is certainly livening things up," a spokesman said.

And if the Prime Minister is entertaining any second thoughts about his new Sports Minister, the man himself would certainly understand. "I know one thing." Banks said as he con-cluded his latest controversial interview. "If I'd been Tony Blair I wouldn't have appointed me."

Draper exhausts champion

Tennis JOHN ROBERTS' reports from Rome

Scott Draper could scarcely believe what he had achieved af-ter trading shots with Thamas Muster, the master of day courts, for nearly three hours in temperatures of more than 100F on the Centre Court aithe

Italian Open yesterday.

"I beat a player who's probably recognised as one of the best players in the world of all time," the 22-year-old Australian said after his 7-6, 5-7, 7-5 victory. "The scary part is that I probably beat 1 him physically and mentally."

Muster was hardly in a position to argue. The exhausted 29-year-old defending champion cancelled his media interview and returned to his hotel to rest on the instructions of the tournament doctor. Having had a stomach upset before the start of the match. Muster ended it in a state of severe dehydration.

The organisers of the Italian championships were nonplussed by a chain of results that has seen them lose the top three seeds in the opening two rounds. Muster, the No 3, having fallen in the second round 24 hours after the first-round eliminations of Pete Sampras and Michael Chang.

Mats Wilander, the Swedish to mer world No 1, and the Carcin Karel Novacek have been banned for three months by the International Tennis Federation after withdrawing appeals against positive drug tests take en in 1995. Both players insist cocaine found in the tests was unknowingly consumed, but aer that the urine samples are theirs and will take no further action

Richard Krajicek, the fifth see was another second-round-vice tim, the Wimbledon champion losing to Germany's Mare

Draper is one of the most tag ented young players on thi ATP Tour, a prospect who due ing his formative years, deal with comparisons to the great Rod Laver by pointing out that flattered though be was, the only similarity he could think of was that they were both left-handers:

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Muster is also a left-hander; which made yesterday's contest all the more fascinating. Even before his condition deteriorated, he was experiencing difficulty shot-making, particularly his backhand down the line.

Times have changed for Muster, whose two titles this vear have been won on the concrete courts of Dubai and Key 🦣 Biscayne, Florida, His record on clay-court matches over the previous two years was 115-5. Yesterday's defeat outs him at 4-5 for the season so far.

"It's funny what a week can do." Draper mused. "If you'd seen me play last week you'd have said: 'Who is this guy?' I'm not even close to being satisfied with my consistency. I ve got to work on the mental side of my game. Some days I don't know how I'm going to play. I've just got to keep working on believing in myself and my game, and playing smart."

Muster managed to stave off seven break points in the final set, only to double-fault on the eighth for 5-6. Draper served out the match for the loss of only one point, raising his arms in triumph after Muster netted a backhand service return on the second match point.

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er forming a dynamic World sponse from the Football As-Cup partnership with Gian-sociation. Graham Kelly, its to do precisely that. These are

MATT TENCH

After the crossed fingers, the cross foreigners. No sooner had Tony Banks, the new Sports Minister, enraged Westminster's traditionalists with his unusual allegiance, than he risked an even more extreme reaction from the footballing variety with his prescription for a successful England team. Take a handful of Italians, a couple of Frenchman. the odd Dutchman - and maybe even a few Englishmen.

Within hours of his muchcriticised Commons perfor-mance, the maverick Minister demonstrated that his talent for controversy was as developed as ever when he suggested to the man from the Press Association that the rules be changed so that overseas footballers playing for English clubs become eligible to play for Glenn Hoddle's national side.

franco Zola, with the two being supported by the likes of Eric Cantona and Dennis Bergkamp. Banks insisted, however, that he was not simply indulging in fantasy in-"We ought to think about, if you play in this country for one

"In other words the right to play is not one of birth but one of residence. Think about it. Freedom of movement within the European Union, able to vote, let's start thinking the unthinkable. If people are playing over here and want to play for England and Scotland, why not play?" For good measure Banks added that what he was really in favour of was a combined

United Kingdom team, comprising the best of the English. Scottish and Northern Irish teams – as well, presumably, as

you speak."

Europe, we're involved. Tony

Fear of cigarette withdrawal symptoms

Sports politics

Sports bodies in this country reacted swiftly to yesterday's Queen's Speech which made clear the Government wants an end to eigarctte advertising.
The Sports Minister. Tony

Banks, said: "We are totally opposed to advertising of tobacco products. We would like to detach sport from tobacco spon-sorship. I've never believed sport

and smoking go together."

Richard Little, corporate affairs manager of the England and Wales Cricket Board, said: "The problem is we do not know what the legislation is going to involve. It may not prevent sponsors putting money into the sport. Benson and Hedges have

over more than 20 years but if legislation dictates that B&H are unable to sponsor cricket any more we will have no op-

tion but to find somebody else." Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the Rugby Football League and the Sports Council, said: "We want to see whether existing contracts will be allowed to be completed. This will have a ma-

kind of safety net support for sports who lose sponsorship." A spokesman for the World

Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, whose two main events are tobacco sponsored, said: "Tobacco sponsurship in sport does not encourage people to smoke. We feel it encourages existing been a tremendous sponsor jor effect and we hope the Gov-smokers to change brands."

